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THURSDAY MARCH 12TH, 2020

Man jailed for harassing his ex-girlfriend
- see page four

Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND 2020

Burglars target village church and shops

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A PRIEST has spoken out after her church was broken into twice in five weeks.
St John's Church in Aberkenfig was one of five local businesses and facilities in the village to be targeted by burglars on Monday night.

■ Continued on Page Five

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Family stuck on coronavirus-hit cruise ship

A FLIGHT carrying more than 100 Brits, including a handful of Welsh residents who were stuck onboard a coronavirus-hit ship, was expected to land back in the UK last night.

A family from the Bridgend area were among those trapped on the *Grand Princess* after 21 others onboard tested positive for the disease.

The ship was held for days off the coast of San Francisco before docking in Oakland this week.

■ Read the full story on page four



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Final nail in coffin for airport

I FEEL that airline Flybe departing from Cardiff is the final nail in the coffin for the airport.

When interviewed last Thursday, the airport manager stated it was business as usual, but there was not a passenger anywhere inside or out at 1.45pm.

Bad investment and bad management all helped to finish off the airport. No more bad money after good from the taxpayer.

It will end up as the biggest development site in the Vale for a number of years.

It's Bristol from now on – a great airport and thriving, thank goodness.

Mike Clemett, Barry.

Welcome return for endangered species

A T a recent wildlife conservation talk by David Bavin members and supporters of Barry Action for Nature were told of the work being carried out to support the return of the pine martens to Welsh forests.

Pine martens were native to Wales but due to extensive persecution by gamekeepers and farmers during the 19th and 20th centuries, they became extinct. There are now plans to encourage their return to Welsh forests.

Ironically, the return of pine martens into their former range may prove a godsend for another struggling native mammal. New research shows that red squirrels are able to recolonise in their wake. The story of the retreat of red squirrels in the face of the advance of North American greys, introduced to the UK just over a century ago, is a familiar one.

But recent research shows that red squirrels are able to avoid predation by pine martens by finding refuge at the end of thinner canopy branches, where the heavier greys are unable to take advantage.

Alas, their return to Wales will take many decades, but bringing back a greater balance to our woodlands can only be welcomed.

Rob Curtis, Barry.

Defibrillator training – even a child can do it

DURING half term, we attended CPR and Defibrillator Training in Llantwit.

My two children, Macie (8) and Sofia (6), really enjoyed the course and learnt a lot about how to save a life.

The trainers from St John Ambulance were fabulous with my children and explained everything to them in a way they could understand. They even had Macie as a helper to demonstrate to a room full of adults how simple it is to use a defibrillator. We learned what to do in an emergency, how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

Last year, a man died in front of me at a charity event. He was the same age as my dad and was out having a great evening with his wife. Within a split second, he had a cardiac arrest and died on the floor. It was horrendous and I felt helpless not knowing exactly what to do.

Would you know what to do if one of your loved ones had a cardiac or respiratory arrest? Would you know the difference? Would you know how to use a defibrillator?

This is a free course and it could save someone's life. To book a place, contact Cllr Gordon Wilkie via email cllr.gwilkie@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk or text/call 07715 555 112. See also www.facebook.com/SJCWLlantwitMajor/.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Thank you to Cllr Gordon Wilkie for organising the training.

Charlotte Cook, Llantwit Major.

Kerb issue is not a new one

I was pleased to see in last week's Gem a letter from Karl-James Langford relating to the lack of dropped kerbs in the Vale of Glamorgan, and the problems for wheelchair users.

This is not a new problem; I have contacted the Vale Council many times over this issue. In one case, it took nearly three years to get a dropped kerb installed on Severn Avenue, but there are many more that need to be constructed.

As kerbs seem to be getting higher than the ones of years gone by, the problem seems to be getting worse, not better.

Most power wheelchairs will struggle to climb a kerb of more than 70mm without endangering the occupant, and as these chairs can weigh over 150kg plus the occupant, trying to lift a chair is not really feasible.

Another problem is that many drivers will park across dropped kerbs as they are not always adequately marked; this is another matter I have raised with the council, but the usual reply is 'we haven't got the finances'.

Richard Enos, Barry.

Excellent bus service

MAY I use The Gem to remind residents and neighbours of Highlight Park, Barry, of the excellent service provided by the T9 service to and from Cardiff Bay and Cardiff city centre.

Every 20 minutes or so, from the fire station, and the journey takes only 30 minutes.

With the current reduction of flights from Rhosee, the T9 service needs your support.

D Robinson, Barry.

Distressed swan helped by vet

MANY thanks to the young vet from Medivet Cowbridge who provided the expertise needed to capture a distressed and disoriented immature black swan that was wandering along Middlegate Court, Cowbridge, (February 29).

I am pleased to report that the bird was not otherwise injured and was subsequently released safely.

S Monaghan, Cowbridge.

'Pupils subjected to indoctrination'

PARENTS' rights to withdraw their children from school religious classes is long established.

Yet the Welsh Government proposes to scrap the right to withdraw just at the time when they are

inserting contentious RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) into the primary curriculum.

Parents polled by large majority to retain the right to withdraw, even when mixed with other questions in the second consultation last November, called 'Access to the Full Curriculum', and 60% polled to retain it.

It's not difficult to spot the hidden agenda. The Welsh Government documents on the curriculum use Stonewall's term 'LGBTQI+', which ignores the independent L or LGBT organisations.

They ignore too women's organisations such as FairPlayForWomen, WomensPlaceUK and Transgenderentrend.

Stonewall's ideology as promoted in books for ages 4-8 is that children might be 'born in the wrong body' and can choose to be boy or girl. Stonewall would encourage children onto the fashionable trans pathway, when they are quite immature, pre-puberty.

It's not just outrageous that the Welsh Government would bring this into primary schools, still less make it compulsory. The state must provide education in an 'objective, critical, and pluralistic manner' and is prohibited in the Education Act (1996) from engaging in 'indoctrination'.

We humanists have come out strongly because their proposals transgress the freedom of religion or belief. Welsh Humanists say the proposed new law seriously risks exposing pupils to unlawful indoctrination and issued a legal opinion from Prof Malcolm Evans of Bristol University in support of that.

We don't yet know for certain what the Welsh Government will put in the curriculum, but as the Birmingham school fracas showed, parental rights to withdraw are an essential 'safety valve'.

Max Wallis, Penarth.

Tales of the riverbank

'THE Return of the Otter' by Oscar Wainwright (The Vale Nature Diary, February 22) was an enjoyable read; his fluid writing style and contagious enthusiasm were evident.

Some years ago, I saw a large mustelid at dusk on a deposition bank along the River Ewenny Fach, south of Pencoed.

When it saw me, it about turned and returned to the water. At the time, I guessed that it was an otter but apparently mink are also found along our watercourses.

A knowledgeable friend said that mink looks darker, so doubt about the true identity has lingered.

Simon Warmingham, Pencoed.

To whom it may concern

WE are writing to First Group Cymru in our capacity as county borough councillors for the three council wards primarily served by bus routes 68 and 69, out of Bridgend bus station.

We have recently been made aware of the proposed cut in services to the 69 Cefn Glas Circular bus on Saturday afternoons, a long-standing service which is a vital network that allows people to move freely and safely around our community while connecting us to our town. Many residents have con-

tacted us telling us of their deep concern. Some have said they will have to rearrange their finish times at work so that they would be able to catch the train from Cardiff or Swansea and arrive in Bridgend in enough time to catch the last service.

Although 69 covers a similar route to 68, we are aware that some people use the 69 because it goes closer to their home which, for many elderly or disabled residents, is vital for them and the cut could lead to social isolation and other issues.

When both the frequency and the convenience of a bus service are reduced, this leads to a downward spiral in usage which has the consequence of even less patronage, and can therefore be a self-defeating policy.

We therefore ask you to consider, instead of cutting the service, to maintain it and market it more effectively.

We never see any publicity for the service, and there appears to be little or no attempt to broaden the market beyond those who have concessionary travel cards. Where are the adverts reminding people that this is a fast, regular, reliable and frequent service, which is good for the environment and avoids town centre parking charges? We are told by our constituents that your prices are too high.

We appreciate that you issue rover-type day tickets, but these are not routinely offered by drivers not advertised on or in the buses. If two or more people are travelling together, a taxi often becomes more competitive.

Where are your Oyster-type cards with discounts for regular users? Where are your off-peak offers? Where is your innovation? What about an all day ticket that allows a passenger to hop on and hop off around the two circular routes over a 24 hour period? Where are your 'two travel together' offers? We are sure there are many other ideas that could be tried, to imaginatively develop the market rather than use the easy resort of cuts.

Looking ahead, we suggest that the 68/69 services would be excellent routes along which to use electric buses. We should be developing the market for these services ready for innovation of this sort. Public transportation offers a level of freedom and independence that many may not get every day and to take their service away would rob some people of their independence.

With the Welsh Assembly announcing a Climate Emergency last year, it is paramount that investment is made into public transport to offer a genuine alternative to the car. This cut would force more people to use the car, which would be detrimental to our environment in the long run.

We hope you understand our concerns and will be open to finding an amicable solution to this most pressing problem.

We ask you to cancel your proposed imminent service reduction for Route 69 and instead put some energy into boosting demand rather than cutting supply.

Councillors Jon-Paul Blundell, Charles Smith, David White from Cefn Glas, Llangevdydd and Brynhyfrydd and Newcastle wards.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

Date	Time	Height (metres)
12/03/2020	08.24	10.7
12/03/2020	20.45	10.6
13/03/2020	09.06	10.4
13/03/2020	21.24	10.2
14/03/2020	09.47	9.8
14/03/2020	22.08	9.6
15/03/2020	10.29	9.3
15/03/2020	22.52	8.9
16/03/2020	11.23	8.5
16/03/2020	23.48	8.2
17/03/2020		
17/03/2020	12.24	7.8
18/03/2020	01.05	7.6
18/03/2020	13.55	7.4
19/03/2020	02.44	7.5
19/03/2020	15.28	7.7

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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Family stranded on virus-hit ship set to return home



Lab technicians handle suspected COVID-19 inside the Specialist Virology Centre at the University Hospital of Wales. Photo credit to Ben Birchall/PA Wire

By Sam Hall

Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A FAMILY from Bridgend were trapped onboard a coronavirus-hit cruise ship for five days off the coast of California, it has been revealed.

Beverley Davies, her husband Geoffrey and son Stephen Evans were left stuck on the *Grand Princess* after 21 people onboard tested positive for the deadly virus.

Passengers on the cruise liner started disembarking this week after being held off the coast of San Francisco for days.

The 140 Brits on the ship boarded a UK-bound plane on Tuesday and were expected to land at Birmingham Airport yesterday evening.

They will be taken back to their homes and required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Nineteen crew members and two passengers on the *Grand Princess* tested positive for Covid-19.

The vessel, carrying 3,500 people from 54 countries, docked in the Californian city of Oakland on Tuesday this week.

A couple from Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf, were also on board the cruise liner.

Authorities were alerted to the *Grand Princess*

when a previous passenger died last week after contracting coronavirus.

The 71-year-old, who had an underlying health condition, had been on a trip to Mexico from San Francisco last month.

News of the passengers' return home came as Wales' chief medical officer revealed 15 people in the country had tested positive for coronavirus as of yesterday morning.

Dr Frank Atherton said seven of the patients were tested following contact tracing in connection with a Neath Port Talbot resident, whose diagnosis was confirmed at the weekend.

Of those, one is a resident of the Cardiff area, another is from the Swansea area and the other five are all from Neath Port Talbot.

The other two patients have recently returned together from northern Italy, and are residents in the Carmarthenshire area.

The Wales Specialist Virology Centre is at the heart of the operation to detect the disease in samples provided by the Welsh public who are suspected of having novel coronavirus.

The centre, based at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, is dealing with on average 50 samples a day sent from around the country, but those working around the clock in its laboratories are bracing themselves for a further increase as the virus continues to spread across the UK.

Care home ordered to pay £33k for putting vulnerable residents at 'serious risk'

A CARE home operator has been ordered to pay a £24,000 fine and nearly £10,000 in costs after pleading guilty to breaches of fire safety regulations at a residential home in Porthcawl.

Breaksea Residential Care Homes Ltd was ordered to pay the sums at Cardiff Magistrates' Court on March 2 after a successful prosecution by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The company was found to have committed three offences under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 at Newton Care Home in Porthcawl.

The offences related to fire safety arrangements including fire safety training for staff and a failure to conduct appropriate evacuation drills – measures which are essential if people are to escape safely in the event of a fire.

Judge Stephen Harmes ordered the company to pay the total of £33,930 – which included costs of £9,930 – within 56 days.

In summing up, Judge Harmes said there was a "clear risk because of penny-pinching" and that Breaksea had been "putting profit before safety."

Owen Jayne, Group Manager Head of Business Fire Safety Department for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Our role is to work with businesses across South Wales to support them to protect businesses and occupants from the risk of fire.

"The fire safety legislation we enforce, known as the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, is designed to keep occupants safe.

"Where we find breaches of this legislation it is our duty to take action to prevent death or serious injury.

"The decision to prosecute businesses is never taken lightly, however in this case there was a serious risk to vulnerable residents and this was attributed directly to the actions, or rather the lack of actions of the company responsible".

"There is no satisfaction in seeing Breaksea Residential Care Homes Ltd., being punished for their failure to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 but we are pleased that the judge recognised the risks and the severity of the sentence reflects the seriousness with which the court views breaches of the fire safety regulations."

Man in critical condition after 'serious' crash

By Ariane Hill

Reporter
ariane@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A DRIVER was taken to hospital after his car left the carriageway and crashed into trees next to the motorway during rush hour.

The 39-year-old man, who had been driving a white Toyota RAV 4 on the M4 near Bridgend between junction 36 for Sarn and junction 35 for Pencoed, remains in a critical condition.

The driver was taken to the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff by road ambulance following the collision which happened at 5.55pm on Monday, March 9.

South Wales Police are appealing for information and are asking for witnesses to the crash, which is understood to have only involved the one vehicle, to come forward.

A Police spokesman said: "The collision involved a white Toyota RAV 4, which was travelling between junction 36 towards junction 35, when for reasons not yet established the vehicle has left the carriageway to the roadside, colliding with trees.

"The driver of the Toyota, a 39-year-old male from the Cardiff area, was taken to the University Hospital of Wales where his condition remains critical. Motorists are thanked for their patience and understanding while the road closure was in place.

"Officers are appealing for witnesses to the collision, or those who may have witnessed the driving of the vehicle prior to the collision to contact South

Wales Police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111, quoting reference number 2000086112."

Other drivers reported seeing the car on its roof on the side of the road, while others speculated it had hit the central reservation.

Crews from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service also attended the crash where they made the car safe and assisted with its recovery.

The eastbound carriageway was closed for about six hours for investigative work to be undertaken and for the recovery of the vehicle. It is understood that lorries were diverted through Bridgend, but struggling with a low bridge on the A5673.

A Wales Ambulance Service spokeswoman said: "We were called at 5.59pm to an incident on the M4 between junctions 36 and 35 for a one vehicle road traffic collision.

"We attended with a crew, two rapid response vehicles and EMRTS. The fire service and police also attended."

It is not the only crash to have happened on the stretch of road that day, as a lane was closed on the westbound carriageway between the two junctions after a car went into the central reservation earlier in the evening.

There were delays on the M4 again on Tuesday morning after two cars crashed between junction 35 for Pencoed and junction 34 for Miskin.

Traffic was queuing for seven miles after the collision on the eastbound carriageway and affecting commuters from Sarn and Porthcawl.

Despite all lanes reopening at around 8am, there was still queuing traffic on the motorway at 9am.

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Man jailed for harassing his ex-girlfriend

By AJ Sicluna
Cardiff Crown Court reporter
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A YOUNG woman who was harassed by an ex-boyfriend at one point received more than 60 anonymous calls from him, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Isobel Bentley had tried to mollify him and was able to recognise his voice, said prosecutor Gareth James.

She had become so upset and concerned that she had branded him an "f***ing psycho."

Scott Pinches (32) of Oxford Street, Pontycymer, admitted charges of harassment and causing criminal damage and was jailed for 12 months.

Judge Daniel Williams said that after the couple had broken up, Pinches had "clearly kept tabs on her".

Mr James said the case arose out of a breakdown of an 11-month relationship between the couple.

He had been doting and caring, but everything ended when he took money from a bank account without permission.

Mr James said: "He didn't take it well and began to follow her and monitor her day to day activities."

On November 24, he saw her going into a night club in Bridgend and sent her abusive text

messages, threatened to harm the person she was with and said she was going to "have a slap".

She was so concerned she went home in a taxi and her sister contacted the police.

He was holding a wooden bat, was "raging and angry and issuing threats".

On January 5, said Mr James, he went to her address, threatened to smash a window, damaged a gate and a plant pot.

When arrested, he said: "No comment".

Mr James said that the victim didn't feel safe and wished to have no further contact with him.

She was described as being continually on edge and "wanted to get on with her life".

Pinches was said to have convictions for 17 offences including robbery, for which he received five years, and actual bodily harm, for which he was sentenced to two years.

His solicitor, Robert Chudleigh, said: "He understands his behaviour was unacceptable and he has reflected on his jealous actions."

"Clearly, he has been involved in the criminal justice system before," he added.

The Judge said that the defendant had "besieged her" with telephone calls and the harassment lasted six weeks.

A restraining order was made, preventing him contacting her for five years.

New scooters and charge for service



Regular Shopmobility customers George Warner and Megan Gilpin with Cllr Richard Young

FROM April, visitors to Bridgend town centre will have to pay more to use the Shopmobility service which has added new scooters and wheelchairs to its fleet.

The mobility scooter and powered wheelchair service, which is operated by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), will start charging customers a £3 hire charge after an initial registration fee from Wednesday, April 1, to "help protect" it from future closure.

Shopmobility lends powered scooters and wheelchairs to members of the public who have limited mobility so they can shop and attend appointments in the town centre.

Customers will face a £5 annual registration fee, which will also include their first use, and a daily hire charge of £3 to use the service which will also see its opening hours reduced by more than an hour and a half.

For the last 15 years customers have only been asked to pay a £2 deposit to hire a scooter from the service which is based in the multi-storey car park in Brackla Street.

A BCBC spokeswoman said:

"Customers will be asked to pay a £5 annual registration fee and a daily hire charge of £3. The registration fee includes the first hire charge of a scooter while each £3 hire charge includes free parking in the Brackla Street multi-storey car park for the duration of a customer's visit."

"For the last 15 years, customers have only been asked to pay a £2 deposit to hire a scooter – although many people actually donate the £2 to help support the service."

"From April, the opening hours of the service will also be slightly reduced, opening 45 minutes later at 9.15am, and closing an hour earlier at 4pm."

The spokeswoman said the new charge is to protect the service from future closure. It was previously threatened with closure due to budget cuts, however the council decided to maintain the service following a public consultation.

The council's cabinet member for communities Richard Young said: "A number of local authorities no longer have a Shopmobility service because it's not considered to be a statutory duty to provide the service but we are aware of how much it is valued."

"We hope these new measures will help ensure the sustainability

of the service in the future."

The announcement came as the council announced Shopmobility had a new fleet of mobility scooters in Bridgend town centre as a result of a £20,000 grant from the Welsh Government.

The council has purchased 13 new scooters and two electric wheelchairs with the grant, replacing machines that were more than a decade old.

Cllr Young said: "The old stock was looking a little worse for wear and as a result, they were not suited to certain types of weather conditions."

"This grant has enabled us to fund replacements and contribute £4,000 to this year's running costs of the facility. The service is not only for blue badge holders, it's for anyone with mobility issues."

"By using Bridgend Community Transport's town rider service, people can be picked up from outside their front door, dropped off at Shopmobility where they can hire a scooter to get around town, and then be picked up by the community bus and taken home again, depending on availability."

The Shopmobility service, which is based in the multi-storey car park in Brackla Street, is used around 4,000 times year by people

Noise from dog drove neighbours barking mad!

AT Cardiff Magistrates Court, a dog owner from Brynecethin has been ordered to pay more than £2,700 after breaching a noise abatement notice issued as a result of his dog barking excessively.

Mark Scallan, of Bakers Way, was found guilty in his absence after failing to attend the hearing.

An abatement notice was first served under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in July 2019 after the dog was heard barking for prolonged periods, mainly during the day.

However, complaints continued and when officers were called out to witness the noise, they recorded "almost continuous" barking over a 20-minute period in the early evening on one occasion and a total of 565 barks over a 30-minute period on another occasion at around 11am.

Officers from the Shared Regulatory Services said Mr Scallan was prosecuted after he failed to comply with the abatement notice on two separate occasions and failed to attend an interview under caution.

He was fined £1,760 by magistrates and ordered to pay £350 legal costs, £450 investigation costs and £176 victims surcharge.

Another local man was fined for a similar offence issue (see article, bottom right).

Cllr Dhanisha Patel, BCBC cabinet member whose portfolio includes Shared Regulatory Services, said: "In both these cases, the noise was clearly audible and intrusive in the complainant's properties."

"The owners were given every opportunity to resolve these matters with officers first who tried to resolve the complaint informally, but both owners failed to take appropriate action to prevent further disturbance, and the complaints continued."

"The local authority has a duty to serve an abatement notice if the noise disturbance is deemed to be causing a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990."

"If the notice is not complied with, owners face being prosecuted where unlimited fines can be imposed upon summary conviction."

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Man's noisy cockerels land him in court

A MAN has been fined after his cockerels were crowing daily from 4am, disturbing neighbours.

Malcolm Hughes, from Nantymoel, was ordered to pay £1,210 by magistrates after pleading guilty to breaching an abatement notice.

He was first served with the noise abatement notice in May 2019, following a long-standing complaint from nearby residents.

However, the complaints continued and when enforcement officers visited to undertake a noise survey in

July, the cockerels crowed every few seconds between 4.40am and 5.10am. A further visit by officers in October saw the cockerels crow 13 times between 6.15am and 6.20am – and a further 104 times between 6.45am and 7.20am, with each crow lasting a few seconds.

Mr Hughes (60), pleaded guilty on February 27 at Cardiff Magistrates Court to breaching the noise abatement notice and was fined £600 by magistrates, and ordered to pay £300 legal costs, £250 investigation costs and a £60 victim surcharge.

Priest's heartache over break-ins

By Ariane Hill

Reporter
ariane@glamorgangem.co.uk

A VICAR said she is "upset" after burglars broke into her church for the second time in just over a month.

St John's Church in Aberkenfig was just one of a few businesses and facilities to experience a break-in on Monday night, March 9 – criminals forced their way into the Anglican church through the fire door.

Rev Suzanne Brumwell, the vicar of the Parish of Llansantffraid, Bettws and Aberkenfig said: "The fire door was open, it's where they got in last time as well. It's the second time in five weeks. They didn't take anything, so they were looking for cash. We think which is what happened the first time."

Rev Brumwell said the culprits had broken into a storage cupboard in the back kitchen, which is used for items such as the printer and a home communion set.

The raiders then forced their way into the hallway between the kitchen, the church and the vestry, damaging a bolted door in the process.

Rev Brumwell said: "The door is always bolted from inside the church and they'd managed to get through somehow, that was damaged as well. They drilled into the door to the vestry but they didn't get through. The only problem now is that we can't get in there either."

The burglars had also entered the main church in an attempt to gain access to the vestry through another side door, but they once again failed.

The first incident on Monday, February 3 was similar in that nothing was taken and they had gained access through the back of the church.

The criminals also broke in to other businesses

in the village, including the Second Chance Charity Shop where they stole a charity box which was raising change for debt coaches.

Rev Brumwell said: "I'm upset we've targeted twice now. I'm more upset this time because they've targeted the charity shop and other businesses as well."

"It's sad that we live in a society where there are people who are clearly desperate for money for whatever reason, which leads to this happening. It causes such heart ache, and causes nuisance and trouble for other people as well."

"The Second Chance Charity Shop is associated with all the churches in the area and it helps to raise money for Christians Against Poverty."

"That shop helps to raise money for debt coaches in this area, not just Aberkenfig but the surrounding area well, so to target somewhere which is trying to alleviate poverty is sickening."

Rev Brumwell added: "We've rectified our security problems, but now we're looking to further improve the security here, including the introduction of CCTV cameras."

Parish administrator Christine Ellis was the person who discovered the break-in on Tuesday at around 10.45am when she went to collect a parish report for a meeting that evening.

Ms Ellis said: "I went in, towards the vestry, and all the cupboard doors were open where we keep the vestments and I just 'oh no, not again' because that's how we found it last time."

"I could then see where they had come through the other doors and the damage they had done to the cupboard door in the kitchen."

The Second Chance Shop's project coordinator Helen Leggett said that while "nothing of value" was taken, she is upset about the incident.

She said: "They took a charity box but there wasn't much in there – nothing of any value was taken. I found they had broken in when I opened the shop at 9.45am on Tuesday."

"They came in through the rear entry and quite severely damaged the rear door in the process."

She added: "I am upset, it's a bit like them targeting the church really. They're targeting an establishment which is affiliated with the church and, similar to the church, helps people."

Other targeted businesses on Monday include Ty Morfa, and hairdressers Hair By Me. Criminals also attempted to enter David Jones Florist.

■ Continued from Page One



A spokeswoman from South Wales Police confirmed they are investigating the burglaries.

She said: "Police in Aberkenfig are investigating a number of burglaries and attempted break ins at premises in the village. Four businesses and a church have reported incidents at their in the last few days, with thieves having gained entry to all but one of the premises."

"As well as causing damage to the properties, items including cash and a power tool have been stolen."

"Enquiries are ongoing to identify suspects and officers are appealing to anyone who has any information which could assist the investigation to come forward."

"Increased and targeted patrols are ongoing in the area, and officers have also been visiting commercial premises to offer crime prevention advice and tips."

"Anyone with information – or anyone who witnesses anything suspicious in the area – is asked to contact 101, quoting occurrence 2000086746."



Rev Suzanne Brumwell in St John's Church. Inset is the outside of the church. Right is the door to the vestry which was drilled and left is a cupboard door which was pried open and left splintered.

Work on new £1.5m 'safe' route set to end later this month

WORK on the creation of a £1.5m safe pedestrian and cycle route linking both Pencoed and Coychurch to Bridgend will be completed by the end of March.

Work has been ongoing on the new routes for the last few months with traffic measures and diversions in place. The project involves the construction of:

- A shared pedestrian and cycle route between Brackla and Bridgend town centre. Work started on the £265,000 scheme in early January.

- A shared pedestrian and cycle route connecting Coychurch with both the Waterton industrial estate and retail park. Work on the £550,000 project started in October. This is part of a larger route, connecting Bridgend town centre to the Pencoed campus of Bridgend College.

- A shared pedestrian and cycle route between Pencoed and the Pencoed Technology Park. Work started on the £750,000 scheme in October.

Cabinet member for communities Richard Young said: "We recognise the temporary inconvenience to drivers with ongoing roadworks and traffic measures in place, but we ask people to bear with us as we finish - all three projects will be completed by the end of March. These active travel routes will enable people to walk or cycle and leave their cars at home, reducing both congestion and environmental pollution. It will also help employment in the area, enabling those without cars or without access to public transport to get to more locations. We want to do everything possible to make it easier for people to choose a healthier, greener form of travel for shorter, everyday journeys and set a trend that can be continued by future generations."

As part of the work, there have been lane closures on the A473 to create a new pedestrian crossing



at the Felindre Road roundabout. A temporary 50mph speed restriction from the Pencoed campus of Bridgend College to Junction 35 on the M4 will last for 18 months. It is in force in both directions.

The Pencoed active travel route was due to be finished at the end of February but due to a number of unexpected issues arising over statutory authority works, it will now be completed at the end of March. Where possible, works are being undertaken outside of peak rush hour times.

Over the last year, more than £3.6m worth of transport and active travel improvements have been

made in the county borough as part of the local authority's decarbonisation agenda. The funding, from the Welsh Government, was awarded to BCBC for the construction of new safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists, new active travel routes, accessibility improvements at a number of bus stops, and to provide road safety and cycling training for schoolchildren as well as Pass Plus courses for new drivers.

The local authority is currently in the process of submitting further funding bids for more schemes.

School no longer on Estyn list after making progress

COETY Primary School has been removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review after it was judged to be making sufficient progress.

During an inspection at the school in March 2018, Estyn inspectors ruled that while areas involving standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning, and care, support and guidance were all 'good', teaching and learning experiences, and leadership and management were 'adequate' and required improvement.

Inspectors made a series of recommendations with the school putting together an action plan.

The recommendations included ensuring that all staff received appropriate support and feedback to help them develop professionally, increasing staff involvement in the process for school improvement planning, providing better opportunities to develop pupils' independent learning skills in the foundation phase and improving provision for numeracy across the curriculum.

Now, following an Estyn review inspection in December 2019, inspectors have judged the school to be making sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations.

The council's cabinet member for education and regeneration Charles Smith said: "We welcome the progress that's been made at the school which means there will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection."

"Estyn noted that since the appointment of the new headteacher in September 2019, the staff and the wider school community have established a clear vision and set of strategic aims for the school."

"I look forward to visiting the school before long to congratulate all involved in the progress made."

Launch of climate change coffee partnership

AN initiative has been launched by an international climate change coffee partnership, made up of organisations across Wales and Uganda including Ogmores Pontyclun Ferrari's Coffee.

More than 3,000 Fairtrade farmers in rural Uganda will be supported by the Welsh Government-backed partnership to get them a fair price for their coffee – and help them combat climate change. The partnership is the result of nearly 10 years of work, which has seen Fairtrade and organic farmers in Mbale, Uganda, join with Welsh organisations to look at farming, climate change and sustainable trade.

Farmers in the Mbale region are suffering from the impact of extreme climate change with droughts, storms and landslides – but are also among those who have contributed to climate change the least.

As part of recent Fairtrade Fortnight celebrations at the Senedd, Jenipher Sambazi, a coffee farmer from Uganda and vice chair of MEACCE, met with members of the partnership and Assembly Members, including Ogmores AM Huw Irranca-Davies who is also chair of the National Assembly for Wales Co-operative Group. She spoke about her experiences as a coffee farmer, a woman in leadership, and the impacts of climate change on her local region.

"If we can sell our coffee on Fairtrade terms, we can grow our business so we can do more to adapt to climate change. Fairtrade guarantees a better price for our coffee and the Fairtrade premium will be spent by our community on projects that help us improve our lives."

MEACCE is one of the four partners planting trees in Mbale. More than 10 million trees have been planted so far with a target of 25m by 2025.

Jenipher added: "Coffee is very sensitive to even small temperature increases. The trees we are planting with help from



Wales provide shade to keep our coffee bushes cool and the quality of our coffee high."

AM Mr Irranca-Davies said: "Approximately 125 million people worldwide depend on coffee production for their livelihoods, however as the most valuable and widely traded tropical agricultural product it is mainly produced by smallholder farmers – some living on as little as 74p per day.

"My thanks to Jenipher Sambazi for her inspirational talk about the devastating impacts of climate change on the coffee trade and the work of the Mt Elgon Coffee Cooperative in Uganda.

"Wales has a proud tradition of championing the Fairtrade movement, which strives to give a greater voice to farmers and workers in the developing world and I'm delighted to see local stores across Ogmores supporting Fairtrade branded

£150,000 garden plans revealed



Schoolchildren from Nantymoel Primary School use pedal power to make a fruit smoothie

PLANS have been revealed for a £150,000 community garden on the site of the former Berwyn Centre in Nantymoel.

The former workmen's hall was demolished in 2013 after the council could not afford the repair bill to make it safe. Now, the site will be transformed into a community garden with an outdoor stage and classroom area, a wildflower meadow and a sensory garden all included in the design. As part of the garden, there will be an area to celebrate the achievements of local heroes.

Meanwhile, the area's mining heritage will be recognised with both an art feature depicting a miner looking out to the Wyndham Colliery, and the outdoor stage having a backdrop inspired by the valley's history. Lynn the Leap's famous jump will be commemorated with an art feature of the Olympic champion set in paving outside the community garden entrance.

Bridgend County Borough Council's deputy leader Hywel Williams said: "We hope the new community garden will become a social area where shoppers and walkers can relax and chat. These plans are still in the early stages and subject to change as they go through the design process – we look forward to seeing the project progress with the help of all the community."

To date, there have been four public consultation events on the plans with a steering group involving a range of groups, from the local primary school and residents to the Ogmores Valley History group, overseeing the project.

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales, the council's Reach Rural Development and the centre's trustees who are responsible for the land are working together to submit grant applications to help fund the project. The plans were revealed during a celebration event at the Nantymoel Boys' and Girls' Club Memorial Hall in February.

The event marked the end of a two-year project which has seen the development of the Ogmores Valley

heritage hub and trail. As part of the project, 12 interpretive information panels documenting the area's past and highlighting places of interest and additional walking and cycling routes have been placed from Bryngarw Country Park, up the valley along the cycling and walking route to Nantymoel.

A series of workshops have been held, involving sessions on bike maintenance and skills training from Sustrans Wales, public speaking and social media as well as a course on digitising materials for museums and libraries, and workshops to design a new mural for the centre. A trip to the Glamorgan Archives was also arranged with training provided on handling, preserving and packaging archive material.

During the celebration event, children from Nantymoel Primary School performed some songs while stalls at the event included those by Age Connects Morgannwg, Welsh Water and Sustrans, which brought its 'smoothie bike'. The project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government. The Heritage Lottery Fund was a funding partner in the project.

Cllr Williams said the Memorial Hall was a landmark building. "Everyone who lives in the valley has an affinity with the Mem, it just means so much to people. I used to come here when I was a boy. In the last few years it has been transformed, and with the help from volunteers. There's now an opportunity to preserve the remarkable history of this area for the next 80 years."

The building reopened last year after undergoing a £350,000 transformation to create a new community hub and heritage centre for the valley. It now features a full-size sports hall, a community café, recreation rooms and meeting space.

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Students' work forms part of global project

STUDENTS from St Clare's School can see their work published today as part of a global project involving over 50 Cognita schools in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The children have collaborated to create *Lyla, Louis and the Magic Lift* – a fantasy book aimed at 10 and 11-year-olds, which has been released to mark World Book Day. This is the second year that Cognita has run the grassroots Share A Story project, bringing together students over three continents to write an epic adventure in English and Spanish. This year, celebrated children's authors Anne Fine and Jeremy Strong are supporting the project.

Teams of children from dozens of Cognita schools were involved in writing the book, each school taking on a chapter or illustration before passing it on to the next. Some 10 schools also tackled the job of

translating the story into Spanish.

The Share A Story II project was co-ordinated by Cognita teaching staff member, Joe Woodhouse, from the British School of Barcelona in Spain; "We set the children a specific challenge this year; to write a story with 'wellbeing' at its heart. We wanted the main characters to have physical or cognitive differences which can often be seen as obstacles, and then radically change readers' perceptions by making these differences the superpowers that helped the characters overcome the problems they faced.

"Our hope is that in turn, it teaches us all to celebrate our differences more. We're so proud of the wonderful story they have produced."

The illustrations were co-ordinated by Christina Harrow at the Australian International School in Singapore and the translations by Nicole Ford at The English Montessori School in Madrid.

Email your stories and photos to
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Meet your Member of Parliament

SINCE I was first elected, I've been keen to support the many local clubs, charities, and community groups that form the backbone of our communities.

From sports clubs, to OAP groups, to local Scouts and Girlguiding groups, I've been working closely alongside local residents to ensure we make the best use of funding opportunities that are available to help them grow. I recognise how difficult it can be to secure funding to help a group expand or become more financially sustainable. Often, many of these brilliant groups are run on a voluntary basis with limited resources; and differentiating between the different funding opportunities available at any one time can be confusing and time consuming.

That's why Huw Irranca-Davies AM and I organise our annual funding advice day, bringing funding providers, businesses, and support organisations from across Wales together in one place. Now in its fourth year, I'm delighted that we were able to host this year's event in the Aberkenfig Community Church, following our three previous events in Pencoed, Llanharan, and Maesteg.

It was really positive to see so many local residents attending to seek one-to-one

advice with the wide range of organisations present. I was really pleased to speak to the local residents who came along, and to hear about their plans for the future of the community groups and clubs that demonstrate the best of our communities.

After we put on this event each year, I'm always so pleased to hear feedback from local groups as to how their search for funding is going. Indeed, off the back of this annual event alone, tens of thousands of pounds have now been allocated to local organisations. If you attended this year's event please do get in touch with us to let us know how you're getting on!

Likewise, Huw and I support local groups throughout the year in terms of funding and operational support – please do contact our offices if you think we can be of assistance or if you'd like us to come along to a local event.

If you weren't able to attend this year's funding advice day but are part of a local club, community group, or charity that is looking for funding, please get in touch with me to arrange for a funding pack to be sent out to you. Email chris.elmore.mp@parliament.uk and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

MP Chris Elmore talks about supporting clubs, charities and community groups in his monthly column for The Glamorgan Gem



New Heritage Trail celebrates history of the Ogmore Valley

OGMORE AM Huw Irranca-Davies joined a celebration of the new Ogmore Heritage Trail and Heritage Hub which took place at Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club recently.

The heritage trail includes interpretation boards along the community path/cycle trail which runs the length of the Ogmore valley, carrying information on key historical moments, industrial heritage, and people of the communities. Each has interactive 'Q' symbols, which allows the download of information on phones. The boards are replicated in the community hub at the Boys' and Girls' Club. The event drew many local residents along with Mr Irranca-Davies, Ogmore MP Chris Elmore, Bridgend County Borough Mayor Stuart Baldwin and Cllr Lee-Anne Hill, chair of Ogmore Valley Community Council. The children of Nantymoel Primary School sang to a delighted audience, including many groups which use the refurbished community hub as their home. Mr Irranca-Davies said: "It's fantastic to see this continuing investment in Nantymoel and the whole Ogmore valley which has been supported by a range of funders and partners who see this as part of building a bright future."

Cllr Lee-Anne Hill added: "Thanks to volunteers such as the Ogmore Valley Local History Group, who have brought together the fascinating stories of the real people who have made this valley such an interesting place to live, and for visitors and tourists to explore."

Nominations sought for Welsh Veterans Awards

THE Welsh Veterans Awards team are extremely pleased to welcome Bridgend Audi as this year's main sponsor of the Welsh Veterans Awards.

In Wales, there are tens of thousands of former military personnel, who upon transition from the armed forces have gone on to contribute immensely to their local community. The Veterans Awards looks to celebrate these true heroes, along with the companies that support them. The Veterans Awards is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes the positives from the military veteran community. Veterans are rewarded in the areas of sport, fitness, business, health and well-being and the wider community.

This year's awards will be hosted by Polly James and opened by Brigadier Jock Frasier Royal Marines, supported by the Corps of Drums of the Royal Welsh, Shenkin the Goat, along with the legendary Goat Major, and sponsored by Audi Sinclair Bridgend and in support of the ABF, The Soldier's Charity.

Chris Jenkins from Bridgend Audi said: "Bridgend Audi wanted to get more involved with the veterans in the community: the Bridgend area is steeped in history and links to all the armed forces and this was an amazing opportunity to do so. Bridgend Audi has many loyal customers who have served in all of the armed forces and this is



an opportunity to give a little back. The awards really drive a robust bridge between veterans leaving their duties and moving back into the commercial world. Not only does it recognise their efforts, it also offers them a vehicle to recognise the true value of the skills and characteristics they have gained during their service."

The organisers would like to thank all the team at Audi Bridgend for their support for the veteran community and look forward to celebrating their success on the evening itself. The application process opens

on March 1 and closes on May 1. The awards are now open for applications and nominations – if you know a military veteran or a company/organisation that supports the group and they are based or operate in Wales, then apply or nominate at: veteransawards.co.uk/welsh-veterans-awards/.

To find out more about The Veterans Awards, contact info@veteransawards.co.uk, check out www.veteransawards.co.uk, Facebook – Veterans Awards or telephone 07891 402 326.

Ospreys and Sony UK TEC launch 'Try Pi'

THE Ospreys and Sony UK Technology Centre (UK TEC) have teamed up to launch an "exciting" new initiative encouraging pupils to tackle coding.

The team's Ospreys in the Community arm has launched the educational Try Pi initiative with the Pencoed manufacturer, encouraging pupils across south Wales to become more digitally literate. The collaborative initiative was launched at the manufacturer's facility with members of Ospreys in the Community, Warburtons, Swansea Council education, Bridgend AYPD, Cefn Cribwr Primary, Welsh Netball, and ERW all attending. They experienced the coding workshop using the Raspberry Pi, which is manufactured at Sony UK TEC, creating an interactive rugby game through coding, making the game easier or harder and editing it as they desire.

Tom Sloane, of Ospreys in the Community, said they were "thrilled to be involved" in such a progressive initiative. "As a foundation we promote the #MoreThanRugby element to engage with the wider community. We've had lots of positive feedback from the schools that took part in the pilot programme, and the children are behind creating it, making it better and helping it to constantly evolve."

The number of pupils learning coding at the facility soared to over 4,000 last year.

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Passengers stranded as Flybe collapses

By Sam Hall

Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

PASSENGERS were left stranded as Europe's largest regional airline Flybe collapsed into administration last week.

Flights set to take off from Cardiff Airport in Rhosneigr were immediately grounded after the Exeter-based company went under just after 3am on March 5.

A steep fall in bookings because of the coronavirus outbreak has been partially blamed for the company's demise - along with ongoing money troubles.

Rhydian Bowen Phillips, a presenter and singer from Barry, said he was set to fly from Cardiff to Paris for a trip to Disneyland with his wife and young daughter.

"We were made aware not to go to the airport via Flybe social accounts," he told PA, claiming

that he had "nothing at all" in terms of direct contact from the airline.

He revealed that the trip was the family's first since having a baby and it had been booked to celebrate his wife's birthday.

Bosses at Cardiff Airport have been working to find other operators to fill the gap left by Flybe's departure.

Scottish airline Loganair has stepped in to help by launching a daily flight from Cardiff to Edinburgh starting on March 23 with ambitions to increase the number of flights to 10 a week by September.

Thousands of people have been left without jobs since Flybe ceased operating, but Loganair have launched a special recruitment line for redundant workers who want to continue their aviation career with Loganair.

Former Flybe employees

interested in joining Loganair should email their CV and a covering letter to flyberecruitment@loganair.co.uk.

Loganair Chief Executive Jonathan Hinkles said: "The collapse of a long-standing airline like Flybe marks a desperately sad day, especially for the airline's dedicated team of employees and for customers facing disruption to their journeys."

"By stepping in quickly with a comprehensive plan, Loganair is aiming to maintain essential air connectivity within the UK regions to keep customers flying, and to offer new employment to former Flybe staff members who are facing an uncertain future today."

Flybe escaped collapse earlier this year after last-ditch talks with the government secured a financial rescue package.

But since then, the company's

future looked uncertain because of a disagreement over a £100m taxpayer loan - and a drop in bookings because of coronavirus has been blamed for delivering the final blow.

Rhosneigr councillor and South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said: "This news is a huge blow for staff at Flybe and Cardiff Airport, and the Labour Welsh Government must pull out all the stops to support staff who woke up without a job."

"Flybe currently accounts for a large number of flights operating out of Rhosneigr and has received significant taxpayer support over recent years from the Labour Welsh Government, which will now have nothing to show for it."

He added: "This once again raises serious questions over the Labour Welsh Government's decision-making and investment strategy, and regrettably the long-term future of Cardiff Airport."

"The economy minister must now make an urgent statement and outline his plans to reverse the declining fortunes of the airport."

Deb Bowen Rees, CEO of Cardiff



A Flybe plane parked up at Birmingham Airport. (Photo credit Jacob King/PA Wire)

Airport, said: "We are deeply saddened by the announcement that Flybe has ceased operations, impacting its operations across the UK."

"Our thoughts are with our many friends and colleagues at Flybe as well as our customers who have had their travel plans disrupted."

"As one of the UK's largest regional airlines, Flybe is a well-known brand across south Wales and has made a hugely positive impact

on Cardiff Airport and confidence in the airport over recent years."

She added: "We are actively talking to a number of airlines about the opportunity that exists in flying to and from south Wales."

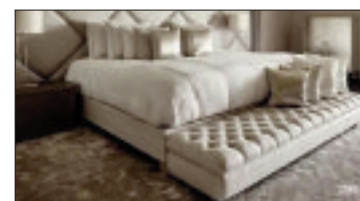
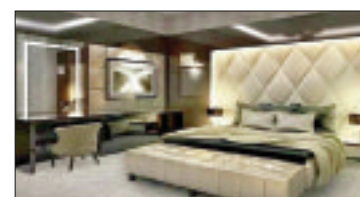
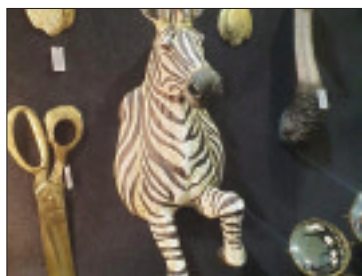
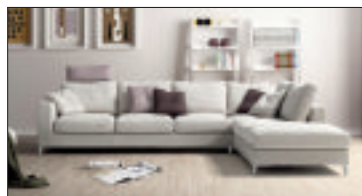
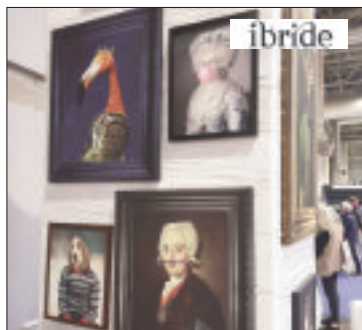
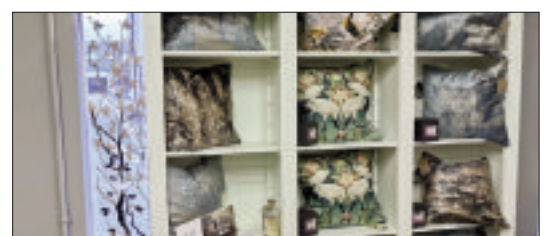
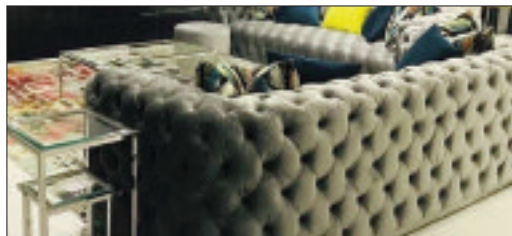
"Given the Flybe news, we will focus on filling the core domestic routes which Flybe serve for the region."

Russell George AM, Shadow Minister for Transport, described the airline's collapse as

"devastating news" for staff and customers.

He said: "I urge the Welsh Government to work fast to secure options to replace the routes with other operators and secure jobs for staff as well as supporting Cardiff Airport."

"As the flagship enterprise - a state-owned entity - of this Welsh Labour Government, the same government's reaction and policy now is more vital than ever."



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More police officers to be armed with Tasers

HUNDREDS of Tasers will be given to police officers across south Wales after a major cash handout from central government, it has been revealed.

More than £273,000 has been given to South Wales Police by the Home Office so the force can buy an extra 331 Tasers.

Chief Constable Matt Jukes said: "Equipping officers to be able to protect themselves, their colleagues and, importantly, the public, is a priority."

This increase is not in response to a specific threat, but the nature of policing

means officers frequently put themselves in harm's way.

"Additional availability of Taser is one part of our strategy to address the safety of officers and the public. Ensuring officers have appropriate protection is recognition of their vital role in standing between the public and harm, and their daily commitment to doing exactly that."

Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael, who has reviewed and endorsed the planned increase in the number of Taser-trained officers in South Wales, said: "As part of my role

in holding the force to account, I have looked specifically and in depth at the way in which officers in South Wales use Tasers.

"We can be confident in South Wales that the use of Taser by our officers is proportionate and frequently prevents harm both to police officers and to the individual being restrained as well as to members of the public."

"In many cases, the presence of a Taser alone is enough to calm an offender or an individual who is in crisis, and in the vast majority of incidents the Taser is not discharged."

"Despite that evidence of benefit, the deployment of Taser is very carefully controlled, and enormous care is taken when training officers who will carry Taser to ensure that they fully understand their responsibilities."

"I take very seriously my role, which is to ensure that the use of Taser is carefully and responsibly overseen and that Tasers are only used to prevent harm to victims, the wider public, police officers and offenders themselves. That approach is fully understood and supported by the Chief Constable and his team."



Major budget boost for Wales

IN yesterday's Budget announcement, Wales received a significant cash boost for spending to support key public services like health and education and to keep our economy growing.

The Budget statement handed Wales the biggest cash increase in over 10 years and a major pay increase for the lowest paid.

Local MP Alun Cairns said that key spending themes that will have a local impact are extra money to tackle Coronavirus and more cash for flood defences. A major increase in spending for roads and broadband will also support the economy, as well as a significant package to reduce business rates.

Mr Cairns said: "Many self-employed and local workers will be pleased at the package of support made available to them and their business through the uncertainty of Coronavirus. Clearly, the NHS

obviously needs extra cash but we also need to keep people in jobs. Sick pay will be paid earlier and more people are being made eligible for the benefit."

Mr Cairns added: "This major increase in money for schools and hospitals should allow the Welsh Government to level up the spend per pupil in our schools and to protect the Sam Davies ward at Barry Hospital and our GP out of hours service."

"The business rate package will protect our High Streets and will play a key part in keeping our shops and local businesses open."

"The National Living Wage will be increased by more than 6%, when inflation is only 1.8%. This will be a real terms increase for the lowest paid. Added to the increase in National Insurance Allowance, it will make a real difference to the take home pay of local families."

"We promised that we'd get things done. This is a big step forward."

Sign Language app launched across railway network

A NEW app to aid communication for deaf customers has been launched on the Transport for Wales network this week.

The app, called 'Interpreter Now' uses a video call style system to make communication

between railway employees and deaf customers easier. Customers can download the free app and sign to an interpreter via the app through a video call, who will then relay the customer query to the member of TFW staff.

The interpreter will then be able to sign

the answer back to the customer.

The app has already been a success on the Scot Rail network, but Transport for Wales are the first transport operator to introduce this type of technology in Wales.

Accessibility and Inclusion manager for Transport for Wales, Dr

Robert Gravelle, said: "We are proud to be the first transport provider in Wales to provide such support for the Deaf BSL-using community. Each and every customer on our network matters and when technology exists to make their lives easier, the obvious thing to do is use that technology."

"I look forward to this new app helping us take a further step towards providing fully accessible journeys for all our customers."

This week saw the official launch of the app in partnership with the Cardiff Deaf Centre, with members invited to put it to the test on a short journey – and members gave it a big thumbs up.

Jonathan Bosman, who trialled the app at Cardiff Central added: "It's amazing not having to write things down which can be an arduous process. Going to the ticket office has always been quite a difficult thing to do in terms of communication, so this app makes that experience much easier. I'm looking forward to becoming more familiar with the app and using it in the future."

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Shop owner urges remaining flood victims to get in touch following community donations

By Ariane Hill
Reporter
ariane@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A SHOP owner has thanked her community for donating televisions for flood victims following the recent bad weather.

Storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge battered the UK, and Wales was no exception as it experienced immense rainfall and strong winds.



The owner of new Cowbridge interior shop Enchanté and Trade Price Sofas (TPS) Suzanne Dickenson asked for donations and pledged to donate sofas to victims following Storm Dennis which saw hundreds of people left without homes and their belongings across south Wales, including in the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Suzanne, from Llantrisant, said: "I would like to thank the people of Cowbridge who donated TVs in my store, and I can assure you that you will be thanked again as many people are not ready to take the sofas we donated yet as we are storing them."

"If you know a family left without anything from the storm, please call me at the Llantrisant store where I will be happy to offer you any donated sofas and TVs."

"The feeling and happiness of receiving pictures of the children all snug and warm again on the sofa [pictured right] is amazing."

Proud mum Suzanne said her daughter Tiarni had also helped with the flood effort as she had gone knocking on doors to raise

awareness of Enchanté and TPS's cause.

Along with her brother Thai and Suzanne, Tiarni spent her half-term knocking on doors in her area. The seven-year-old, who was excited to help, has also been praised by her school, Howells in Llandaff, for her efforts to help.

Unfortunately, Storm Jorge was not the end of the bad weather as yet more heavy rain and wind hit the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend on Sunday.

A yellow weather warning, the least severe, was in place from the Met Office for heavy rain – it is estimated that around a month's worth of rain fell in one night.

The M4 once again experienced multiple collisions on the stretch between junction 35 for Pencoed and junction 36 for Sarn as the road was inundated with excess water and spray.

There was once again road closures and delays due to flooding, such as on Felindre Road, going past Ruthin and St Mary's Golf Club, Coedcae Lane in Talbot Green and Llanharry Road which links Llanharry to neighbouring village Bryncae.

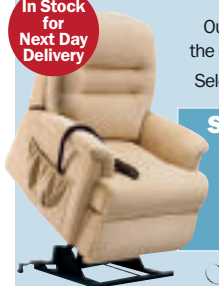


Flood victims receiving donated furniture. Left is Tiarni helping with the flood donations effort

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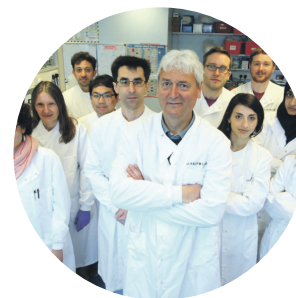
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Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND 2020

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plant with big, dark green, shiny and leathery leaves that emerge from a bright red protective sheath.

Tough and low maintenance, they can grow to one foot tall where they will look great as a

centrepiece on mum's table or over three feet tall where it will look fantastic standing proudly on the floor.

Mother of Thousands (£15)

The Saxifraga Stolifera, or aptly named Mother of Thousands, is part of the Saxifragaceae family and is native to Asia. Although it looks similar to Begonia and Geranium, they are not related.

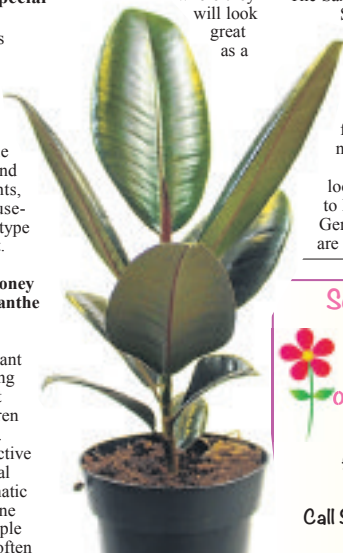
Saxifraga puts out stolons - creeping runners that take root to form new plants - which grow cute little plantlets. The leaves are kidney shaped and furry. A plant with personality that mum will love!

Calathea 'Crimson' (£21)

With stunning vivid pink markings through the centre, this eye-catching plant with its large, rounded leaves that mature to a deep red-purple around the edges, is sure to be a hit with mum on her special day and beyond. It has

exotic foliage, which takes a little more... but the Calathea Crispum is so striking it makes it all worthwhile!

Lisa Needham, founder at online houseplant specialist Root said: "Houseplants are an eco-friendly and beautiful Mother's Day gift, they can last for years as well as purifying the air around you, making a fresher and healthier environment for everyone, not just mum!"



'Pocket Money Plant' - Ctenanthe Amaris

This 'pocket money' houseplant is only £3 making it the ideal plant for young children to buy for mum.

With its attractive silver-green, oval leaves and dramatic green herringbone pattern with purple underside, it is often called the 'Prayer Plant' because its leaves are erect at night and flat through the day.

The Peace Lily

The Peace Lily will not only brighten up mum's home – especially when its majestic leaves bloom in Spring – but it is also an impressive air-purifier and makes for a healthier home by giving us more oxygenated air and filtering out harmful toxins.

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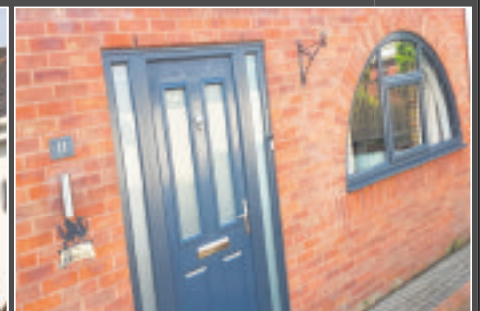
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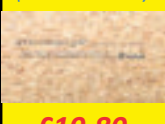
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Mason and Gordon
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You can find Twenty 12 Flooring on Ty Verlon Estate.

It's the turning before McDonalds, look for the Twenty 12 Flooring signs pointing you in the right direction, follow the road up and around to the Masons buildings. Look out for the red railings on your right and turn into the free car park.

Michelle & Chris look forward to meeting you soon!

How a strike-breaking ship came to grief on Barry Island



A MAN is looking for more information on a shipwreck that took place at Barry in the 1920s.

Paul Weatherill, who lives in St Lythans, was browsing through old family photographs when he found this image of a boat, split in two, at Barry Island.

Mr Weatherill told The Gem: "The photo belonged to my late father, who was a Merchant Navy sea captain.

"I recall my father telling me that the ship – a

tramp cargo vessel – was wrecked on Barry Island around 1926.

"I believe it was called the *SS Valencia*, and was carrying coal from Spain as part of an effort to break the miners' strike.

"Eventually, the wreckage was towed away and scrapped.

"I wonder if any Gem readers can recall this dramatic scene on the beach."

If you can confirm or add to this story, please email The Gem on editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or telephone 01446 774484.

Campaign launched to clamp down on drivers using phones

SOUTH Wales Police has launched a social media campaign to remind drivers of the danger of holding a mobile phone while driving, and to encourage them to report drivers who are using their phone at the wheel.

All four police forces across Wales will be focussing on some of the main reasons people use their phones while driving; texting, calling, using a sat nav, using social media, and listening to music. They will also be carrying out targeted operational activity providing an increased police presence in each force from March 16-29.

The aim of the campaign is to remind the public of the laws around holding a phone while driving and to encourage them to report dangerous drivers.

Even when stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic, it is still breaking the law to use a hand-held mobile phone at the wheel.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Valentine said: "Increasing numbers of drivers are choosing to use their phone while driving to call, text or even check social media.

"It's illegal to hold a mobile phone while driving. The message is very clear – it's not worth it."

If you suspect someone is driving while using their hand-held mobile phone, report it on 101, 999 in an emergency, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. If you have video or photographic evidence which has been obtained lawfully and safely, you can submit it directly to the police via the Go Safe website bit.ly/walesmobilephone.

Farming family stress importance of protecting home food market



Pictured (left to right) are FFW member Rhodri Davies, Alun Cairns MP, Gaynor Davies, FFW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright, FFW Vice President Brian Bowen and FFW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker at Rosedew Farm.

A FARMING family has shared concerns about the future of farming with MP Alun Cairns in light of the ongoing uncertainty on trade deals, food imports and the lack of frameworks in the UK.

Gaynor and Rhodri Davies moved from west Wales in 1995 to Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major, and have set up a number of businesses to diversify and complement the farm. With their three children, they run a number of businesses on the farm.

There is a 295 strong herd consisting of many breeds including Aberdeen Angus, Hereford Cross, Saler and British Blue. The home bred beef is slaughtered at the local slaughterhouse Maddock and brought back to the farm to supply another business, The Farmers Pantry Butchers, with shops in Llantwit Major and Pugh's Garden Village in Radyr.

With his son Dafydd, Rhodri grows a variety of crops on the farm including sugar beet, wheat, barley, maize, potatoes as well as hay/silage. Rhodri and Gaynor also own and manage Acorn Campsite and hire many local people to work here.

Talking to the MP about the Agriculture Bill and food imports, Rhodri said: "We are very concerned that the Bill does nothing to ensure food imported to the UK meets UK standards - despite ministerial assurances that imported food would meet our standards.

"We work very hard and to very strict rules and regulations. Some of the food that could land on our supermarket shelves will have been produced to standards that are illegal here.

"It makes these food items far cheaper but it doesn't protect our consumers and it also doesn't protect us as food producers, who are committed to keeping up standards. Our way of producing food in a safe and sustainable way must be protected."

Adding to their concerns of cheap food imports, is the lack of frameworks which would ensure a level playing field across the UK.

Gaynor said: "We need frameworks to keep the UK's 'home market' working properly and fairly. We will already have to compete with farmers in Europe, so it is essential that this Government prevents unfair competition between producers in different parts of the UK."

FFW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker added: "The Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Order illustrates our fears: It removes the EU Pillar 1 financial ceilings mainly to allow Scotland to pay more money to farmers following Lord Bew's review of payments.

"If an additional windfall promised by the UK Government in August 2019 is paid through the

BPS in 2020, the difference between average Scottish and Welsh farm payments will be around £16,200. Paying such an additional sum was not possible under the EU framework as it would have exceeded the Pillar 1 financial ceiling."

"We all know that 35% or more of Welsh lamb goes to Europe and that trade there is important, but 60% and more goes to England - therefore, we can't have anything that breaks the UK Home market as a policy in devolved arrangements."

Since 2016, following an internal consultation, the FFW has argued for frameworks to be agreed between UK Governments in order to prevent inappropriate differences between policies and funding in different parts of the UK.

"As an organisation established more than 60 years ago to advance and protect the interests of Welsh farmers, the FFW remains fully committed to devolution and the advantages it has brought to Wales and other nations over the past two decades.

"But such changes do not negate the need for all our nations to work together to develop approaches which are mutually beneficial and protect not only our farmers and internal markets, but also our status and reputation across Europe and the world," said Richard.

With beef production playing such an important role in the family business, the family are also concerned about the increase in bovine TB in Wales.

Rhodri said: "Bovine TB is something that worries us greatly. On top of everything else that is going on, we feel that not enough is being done to eradicate this disease here in Wales. Aside from the stress on us and the cattle with testing and more testing, there is also an economic risk attached to the current bovine TB status.

"We talk about trade deals with this country and that country but will they actually want to trade with us, given that they may very well view us as the dirty neighbour?"

The FFW has long argued that current levels of TB are a serious economic risk to successful trade negotiations and has urged the UK Government to undertake a formal risk assessment of the implications of current levels of Bovine TB across the whole of the United Kingdom, irrespective of devolved animal health responsibilities.

Speaking to Alun Cairns, FFW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright said: "We strongly urge the UK Government to work with the devolved administrations to develop an eradication programme that provides assurances to other countries that TB vectors in both cattle and wildlife are being tackled in such a way that the UK will be TB free within an acceptable time period."

Dog of the Week



GOLDEN oldie Penny is a gorgeous 15-year-old West Highland Terrier and is Dogs Trust Bridgend's oldest resident.

She's looking for her perfect retirement home with owners who are around for most of the day to keep her company. Despite being a more mature lady, she still enjoys a short walk followed by a snuggle in her bed.

Penny has limited eyesight so will suit a quiet home and could live with sensible children eight years and over who will give her some space when she needs it. Penny is a real sweetheart and is so deserving of her forever home in her twilight years.

For more information on Penny, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG call 01656 338745 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Out & About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON

Cowbridge Art Society to hold calendar competition

ON Thursday, March 12, Cowbridge Art Society will hold its annual calendar competition for members.

The following week, there will be a demonstration of oil painting techniques by Ray Burnell who specialises in west Wales seascapes.

The society meets in the Old Hall from 7pm - 9pm on Thursday evenings for ten sessions each term, mostly demonstrations. New members, painters, non painters and visitors are most welcome.

Details of this term's programme are available in the foyer of the Old Hall, Cowbridge and full membership information on our Facebook page, facebook.com/cowbridgeart.soc.

Public meeting on St Athan train station

ALUN Cairns MP is holding a public meeting to discuss a new train station at St Athan, giving members of the public the opportunity to learn more about his plans and ask any questions they may have.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 from 6pm at The Gathering Place, Flemingston Road, St Athan CF62 4JH.

All constituents are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance by emailing Alun.Cairns.mp@parliament.uk or calling the office on 01446 748657.

St Donat's Cafe Concert – change of venue!

A COLLEGE and Community Cafe concert will be held at the West Church, St Illtyd's, Llantwit Major on Friday, March 13 from 3pm–4.30pm. Students from Atlantic College Peter Cronin and Peter Rosser from Llantwit Major, plus members of the Ukelaic Band will complete the programme.

Tickets £10 (to include refreshments) available on the door and from Nickleby's Bookshop in Llantwit Major. All proceeds to the St Donat's Tower Repair Fund.

Community cinema

THE Good Liar (15) is the upcoming movie at Dinas Powys Community Cinema, on Saturday 14 March.

In the film, con artist Roy Courtney (Ian McKellen) can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) online, but will the swindle go to plan?

The volunteer-run community cinema in Dinas Powys has now been operating for 7 years, showing films on the second Saturday of every month.

Doors open 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start. All tickets are £4.50. They are available on the door, or can be purchased in advance from the DPVC office at the rear of Murchfield Community Centre (week-day mornings) or online: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/murchfieldcommunitycentre>

Come see what crafts are all about

RHOOSE Adult Craft Group Open Day is on Saturday, March 14 from 1pm–4pm at Celtic Way Community Centre.

Free admission, craft demonstrations and crafts to buy.

Artists' talks at Art Central

ON Saturday, March 14, Art Central Friends have organised an event when artist Sally Moore will be in conversation with artist Professor Gerda Roper.

This will be an illustrated session and opportunities to meet the artists and discuss modes of working

and contemporary practice. Coffee from 11am but the 'in conversation' talk will start promptly at 11.30am; all welcome.

Everyone is welcome at the Chatty Café

A FRIENDLY natter over a cup of tea takes place at Llantwit Major Library on Saturday, March 14 from 11.30am–12.30am; everyone is welcome.

Crafty fun at Messy Church in Bonvilston

MESSY Church will take place on March 15 in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite Old Village Shop) at 2.30pm until 4pm.

A warm welcome is extended to youngsters (and toddlers, with their parents) for activities for all the family; crafty things to make, some singing, a Bible story and plenty of refreshments. We would be delighted if you could join us.

Further info from Rev Lee Dufield on 07784 869020, Rev Canon Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

Valeways guided walks in the Vale of Glamorgan

ON Sunday, March 15 at 2pm, 'Wild Daffodils at Castle-upon-Alun' starts at St Brides Major Post Office, CF32 0SB.

On Wednesday, March 18 at 10.30am the Barry Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Bron y Mor car park, Cold Knap, Barry.

Also on March 18 at 2.30pm, the Cowbridge Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Physic Garden fountain, Cowbridge.

On Thursday, March 19 at 11am, 'Woodlands and Coast' starts at Porthkerry Country Park cafe car park.

Also on March 19 at 2.30pm, the Penarth Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Penarth cliff top cafe car park.

Attend the Diabetes Group to hear about foot health

A TALK by Eve Waggett, specialist podiatrist, will be giving a talk on 'Stance Diabetes Foot Health Engagement and Empowerment to Self-Care' on Tuesday, March 17 in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm - 8.45pm – everyone welcome.

Vale Stroke support

THIS group welcomes stroke victims and their partners at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 2pm in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major when the topic will be Flower Arrangement, hosted by Sarah Colston.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month with different activities and speakers, ranging from crafts to live music, always tea and cakes, and occasional day trips. You will be most welcome.

PACT meetings in your area

COME along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon.

Buttrills surgery at the Barry Library, King Square on Tuesday, March 17 10am – 12pm.

Gibbonsdown PACT at 10.30am on Tuesday, March 17 at the Residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry.

Meet your local officer at Llantwit Major Library on Tuesday, March 17 from 10.30am – 11.30am.

Cuppa with a Copper at The Sycamore Inn Colwinston at 11am on Tuesday, March 17.

Care and Repair in the Vale can help you

IF you are a homeowner or private tenant living in the Vale, perhaps disabled or elderly, Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale can help you adapt and maintain your home.

They give advice on grants available and information on reputable companies to use.

Care and Repair will hold an information session on Tuesday, March 17, 10am–12pm at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information. Home visits can be requested on 02920 473337.

Cowbridge U3A History Group

THE next Cowbridge U3A History Group meeting will be a talk entitled 'Poisoned', some tales and the science behind those who have been murdered by poisoning, by Ted Richards at 10am on Thursday, March 19 in Cowbridge Town Hall (main hall).

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Big Screen in Cowbridge

THE next film at Big Screen is *The Good Liar* (Cert 15) on Thursday, March 19 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

This is the story of Ray Courtney (Ian McKellen), a con artist who aims to fleece millionaire Betty McLeish (Helen Mirren) of her fortune.

However, all is not as it seems, and a cunning battle of wits ensues.

Tickets £4, available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door.

Pamper and Wellbeing evening

LLANTWIT Major Comp PTA are hosting a Pamper, Wellbeing and Fitness Evening on Friday, March 20 from 6.30pm–9.30pm.

Tickets (£5) include taster sessions in Sleep Therapy (limited spaces), Zumba and Tai Chi. There will be pamper providers, fitness and wellbeing specialists and gift stalls, bar, food, entertainment and a raffle. Tickets from Sunkissed, Llantwit Major, the Comp front desk or from PTA members.

Visit the 'Pamper, Wellbeing and Fitness Evening' event page on Facebook. All profits to support pupils.

MP's surgery

ALUN Cairns MP will hold an advice surgery from 9.30am to 11am for his constituents on Friday, March 20 at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Lunchtime recital

THE Cambrian Consort of Viols takes place on Saturday, March 21 at All Saints' Church, Barry at 1pm.

The members of the consort play Renaissance and Baroque instruments. In this recital of Dowland lute songs, Steve Metcalfe will play the lute and Father Paul Brophy the bass viol to accompany soprano Mared Furnham.


Concert goers are invited to bring their lunch to enjoy. Refreshments are also provided, and entry is free, although audiences are encouraged to contribute towards a retiring collection in aid of the All Saints Church Organ Restoration Fund.

Further information from James Bull on 07429598820 or email music@allsaintsbarry.org.uk.


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The company handles insurance work, and are also specialists in end of lease work.

Mirror Image really is a 'one stop' shop for any bodywork problem.

Call in and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Take the strain off household chores with Lavish Laundries

LAVISH Laundries on the Bridgend Industrial Estate is very much a family business, as Angela James and her mum have been running it since last July.

The business offers the full range of laundry services, and there's a special offer at the moment, with the team

ironing 30 items of laundry for just £25.50!

Whether it be workwear, sports kit or duvets, the team at Lavish Laundries can make your life easier by taking this time-consuming and frustrating household chore off your hands.

Lavish Laundries is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5.30pm, and on Saturdays from 8.30am to 12.30pm.

Cafe knows how to keep the customer satisfied!



EXPERIENCE counts for a great deal in life, and that is certainly the case on Bridgend Industrial Estate at Phil's News & Cafe.

The cafe has been there for 31 years now, and owner Phil Lewis has adapted to changing markets over that period by knowing just what his customers want.

It is a 52-seat cafe, and is fully licensed, catering for what customers want, when they want it.

Six years ago, he added a traditional fish and chip restaurant – 'The Tasty Plaice' – and that has helped keep the cafe as popular and as busy as ever.

The cafe includes a newsagents as well, making it easier for local people and local businesses to pick up just what they need. He stocks The GEM newspaper as well!

So, whether you want a newspaper, a coffee or tea, a light snack or a substantial meal, you will find it at Phil's News & Cafe.

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It pays to check out what your industrial estate can offer

MEMBERS of the public can sometimes get into a little bit of a rut, when it comes to buying the household goods that they need.

The natural first thought is the high street, or something with the word 'retail' in it – a retail park, perhaps.

Of course, those who know better are well aware that many of the best suppliers are not so visible – and are to be found on industrial estates.

It's all a question of image, of course, and on any industrial estate there will be a number of manufacturing outlets and distribution outlets

that do not sell to the retail customer.

For instance, the Bridgend Industrial Estate describes itself as 'a large mixed use development comprising a number of large stand-alone industrial facilities, smaller estates, offices, development plots and a 'retail quarter'.'

In total the estate

extends to an estimated 3 million sq ft of commercial accommodation on approximately 300 acres.

However, that only tells half the story, because so many of the businesses on the estate welcome retail customers, and more and more people are becoming aware of this.

It is worth remembering that one reason companies choose the Bridgend Industrial Estate is because of its location, close to the M4.

It means that it attracts retail customers from as far afield as Carmarthen in the west, and Newport in the east – customers who value the quality and price offered by companies who have set up there.

It is slightly ironic to think that clued-in customers will travel from a distance to get a good deal on items that they need, while local people may be unaware of what is on offer.

That is why it is well worth taking a good look at your local industrial estate.

You may well find exactly what you need today there – and probably what you will need tomorrow too!



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NEWS FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Barry Men's Forum

BARRY Men's Forum recently welcomed **Roger James** from Newport, who spoke on the life and times of **Charles Stewart Rolls** and **Henry Royce**, pioneers in the motor manufacturing and aviation industries.

At the Bournemouth Air Show in 1910, Rolls met his death at the age of 33 in a flying accident. His remains were brought back to Llangattock and interred in the village church graveyard. A statue of him is on display in the centre of Monmouth. Sir Henry Royce passed away in 1933 at the age of 70.

The business had a mixed history, being in financial troubles and collapsing in the early 1970s, but was rescued by the German motor giants BMW in the early 1990s. Present day Rolls Royces are produced at Weybridge in Surrey, and aviation engines are still produced at Derby.

The Forum meet weekly at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry on Thursdays at 9.45am. Further information from Mac Tanner on 01446 743455; all welcome.

PDGG

Scrabble and choirs at

Barry U3A

ONE of the Barry U3A's break out activities is the Scrabble group and organiser Sue is looking for more members.

If anyone out there likes a game of Scrabble, come join us at Barry U3A.

Sue also announced that one of the day trips this year would be to Aberglasney, which has beautiful gardens for anyone who has never been.

The speaker was Dean Powell, whose story this time was about Wales as the Land of Song and while he gave a nod to opera, pop and rock and roll, his main topic was the male voice choir. He was a member of the Treorchy Male Voice Choir himself and spoke with some authority on the subject.

Dean has a particular interest in Welsh history in the Valley communities of south Wales, especially during the Victorian period.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 6 at 2pm in Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road and the topic will be the medieval boat found at Usk.

Barry U3A likes to welcome new members to take part in activities; anyone interested in joining should call Christine on 01446 701537 or just turn up on the day.

CD

Cowbridge Friendship

Club

OUR February meeting was a celebration of St David's Day, with Welsh cakes, bara brith and daffodils.

We were entertained by the Old Spice singers with some lovely older songs, sung in close harmony: many thanks to them. We also welcomed some new volunteers to help run the club. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 26 at Llanblethian church hall at 2pm. Anyone interested in joining us should call Kay Edwards on 01446 773685.

Penarth rambblers walk from Holy Mountain to Wales' oldest pub

DESPITE a forecast for strong winds and snow showers on high ground, a group of keen walkers were lured out on St David's Day to join William from Penarth and District Ramblers for a 12-mile hike, taking in Ysgryd Fawr and Bryn Arw in the easternmost part of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Leaving the National Trust car park on the south side of Ysgryd Fawr, which is also known as the Holy Mountain and has a shattered north-western side due to a landslide from the last Ice Age, they meandered uphill through Caer Wood, then out onto the open hillside for the climb to the ridge-way.

A squally snow shower hit them but passed quickly on the strong wind as they tramped towards the trig point at 486m above sea level from where they were rewarded with clear surrounding views.

After zig-zagging down the steep face of the hill and pausing for morning break, a trek through waterlogged fields led them towards the imposing Tudor manor house of Llanvihangel Court with its medieval barn, and then uphill to Llanvihangel Cruorney, which contains the famous Skirrid Inn that dates to 1100, and is allegedly the oldest pub



MEMBERS of Bridgend Soroptimists International took part in a litter pick at the Parc Slip Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, Bridgend, on March 7 to celebrate International Womens Day.

They braved the weather to complete a 5k walk around the reserve, which was followed by coffee and cakes at the Visitor Centre.

Soroptimists mark International Womens Day

in Wales.

Descending and crossing the Afon Honddu via Pen-y-bont, a steady climb through fields led them to Great Llwygy Farm and, crossing part of the Black Mountains Cycle Centre mountain bike trail, they headed into Strawberry Wood.

After stopping for lunch, they moved on past Strawberry Cottage through a field and back across the Afon Honddu.

A quiet lane led them through Stanton Manor Farm for the gradual ascent of Bryn Arw where they were buffeted by a strong wind before making their way down from the ridge-way into Cwm Brynawr with its pretty stream.

Fields brought them back to the railway line and carefully across the fast A465 to Trilley-uchaf for the long journey through more waterlogged fields below Ysgryd Fawr, passing Dan-y-Skirrid and Pant-y-Skirrid farms and back to their start.

On March 14, an eight-mile moderate walk at Ewenny Priory and Castle-upon-Alun will leave Barry Dock Railway Station at 9.30am; call Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On March 17, a six-mile moderate walk in the Monnow Valley will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9.30am; call Alison on 07717 820 012.

On March 18, a 14-mile moderate walk in the Forest of Dean will leave Cogan at 9am; call William on 07528 701 952.

For up to date information log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or follow on Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joey Strangward

Latest News from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade

TEN members of the Juniors from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade took part in the Boys' Brigade International Team Games competition, which involved playing six different team games.

Each game needed six boys and an independent judge recorded our scores. We will send the results off and hope to improve on our ranking from last year. Thank you to our judge and to the staff of Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, who made us feel very welcome.

For more information about Boys' Brigade in Llantwit Major please contact Debbie on 01446 796208.

St Nicholas WI

ON February 6, members of St Nicholas with Bonvilston WI met in the Reading Room in Bonvilston.

The guest speaker was Cara from the Polka Dot Tearooms at Llantrisant. Cara is an award winning cake decorator who decorated a chocolate ganache

cake using icing to create a lovely rabbit. The cake was donated as a raffle prize, which was won by Vivienne Hayes, whose family said that it was the most delicious cake that they had ever tasted.

At the meeting on March 6, Harold Williams from the Beekeepers Association gave a very interesting talk on the life of bees. Harold has several hives at Fonmon Castle in Rhooose and following the talk, members were able to purchase honey collected from his hives.

Orders were taken for a fish 'n' chip supper for next month's meeting and plans were made for the summer outing to Burford and Stow on the Wold. Names were taken for afternoon tea at the Mansion House in Cardiff for August.

The raffle was won by Carole Saunders and the monthly competition 'An image of a Bee' was won by Rosemary Fisher.

The next meeting will be on April 2 at 7pm, which will be the AGM; new members welcome.

VH

Barry Soroptimists

welcome new members

AT a recent meeting Barry Soroptimists welcomed new members Karla Flambert and Afonwy Howell-Pryce.

Karla farmed with her husband before going to Romania to work with disadvantaged children. Her nursing career was very much valued and when in France, she was a founder member of Cancer Support France. She now lives in Penarth with her husband and family.

Afonwy grew up in Oxfordshire and now is very happy living in Barry; she is a solicitor and became a Soroptimist to help other women achieve their dream and lead a happy life. She is passionate about fundraising and is preparing to trek Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales.

The Soroptimists are an international group of women working to inspire and help other women local and worldwide. To find out more, visit www.sigbi.org/barryanddistrict.

Wenvoe Community Centre

ON Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm there is a Meet The Author event at Wenvoe Community Centre; come and listen to local author Sam Hurcom talks about his book *A Shadow on the Lens*, based in Dinas Powys.

Entry is free, but a donation to the library would be welcome.

The second event on Wednesday, April 15 at 7pm is Gardeners' Question Time; tickets from Wenvoe Community Library during opening hours or £2.50

on the night.

Join us for a good-humoured evening where the audience of amateur gardeners can put their horticultural questions to our panel of local experts. Chaired by Mike Tucker (writer of 'Village Gardener' section in the Wenvoe What's On) and his trusted panellists, Joyce Hoy and Gordon Jones.

The library contact details are: 02920 594176; wenvoelibrary@outlook and www.facebook.com/CommunityLibrary.

News from Treoes, Llangan and St Mary Hill LLANGAN Primary School: on March 9 the Eco Owls began a school initiative to recycle fruit snacks at breakfast.

To fund this the children have created badges to sell at lunchtime.

Once again the Llangan school pupils are supporting the Velindre Easter Chicks appeal. Knitted Easter chicks will be on sale, priced £1 each with a Creme Egg inside. All money raised will be sent to Velindre hospital.

On World Book Day the children dressed up; they had a wonderful time reading interesting stories and receiving their book token. On March 12 the children will take part in a danceathon during lunchtime to raise money for Sport Relief. I am sure it will be a great success.

Birthday wishes: My thanks to all the members of the Young At Heart Club for their birthday wishes on March 6, and to The Gem for remembering my birthday – a big thank you to you all.

Saron Chapel, Treoes: The service which took place at Saron on March 8 was well attended, conducted by Rev Daphne Parker.

St Canna's Church, Llangan: The service which took place on March 8 was well attended by the local fraternity.

Art and Craft group

ON March 6, Llantwit Major Art and Craft Group enjoyed a much anticipated visit from Carol Bartlett of Sew Lovely, High Street, Barry.

She demonstrated free motion stitching on a wonderful vintage Featherlight Singer machine. It was an interesting and inspiring evening, enjoyed by all. Carol will be taking part in the exhibition Pier 125 at the Penarth Pavilion from March 20 to April 26. Member Pat Johnson will also have some of her felt pictures on display. The exhibition celebrates the 125th anniversary of Penarth Pier and includes other artists' work. The group meets on the first and third Friday of each month at Llantian Hall at 7.30pm and have a varied programme of speakers, demonstrations and practical evenings. The next meeting is a practical evening on March 20 at 7.30pm. Anyone interested is welcome to come along.

Claire's impressive Parkrun journey across Wales

A WOMAN from the Vale has become the first person in Wales to complete all 43 Parkruns across the country.

Claire Connelly, who lives in Rhoose, has spent her weekends travelling hundreds of miles all over Wales to take part in the 5k runs.

Mrs Connelly, club secretary of Vale Surf Life Saving Club, doesn't think there is anything special about what she has done, but loves how Parkrun makes it so easy for people to get involved in fitness.

She said: "Once you have completed your first one the format is the same all

over the world. Just do not forget your barcode."

Parkrun, which holds more than 160,000 runs across the globe, uses barcodes so runners can check their times and keep track of their progress.

Talking about her favourite runs, Mrs Connelly said: "Newborough Forest has amazing views, Penrhyn starts inside a castle, Swansea Bay is flat and has great views and of course Barry Island for the view from the point."

The challenge hasn't stopped for Mrs Connelly as more Parkruns are being set up in Wales.



Claire Connelly, pictured above and left, became the first woman to run all 43 Parkruns in Wales.

Programme launched to connect, inspire and empower female writers

SHERMAN Theatre has launched an initiative designed to ensure that unheard voices in Welsh theatre become heard.

Each year, Unheard Voices will champion a different group they would like to be heard more on stage. In its first year, Sherman Theatre's Unheard Voices will connect, inspire and empower Welsh and Wales-based female writers through a year-long programme of masterclasses and networking opportunities.

Unheard Voices will enable participants to develop their skills, build their professional network and begin a long lasting relationship with Sherman Theatre. Twelve masterclasses will be delivered by key figures in theatre including: Suzanne Bell (New Writing Associate, Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), Emma Callander (CoArtistic Director, Theatre Uncut), Katherine Chandler (Playwright) Sharon Clark (Playwright, Dramaturg, Producer and Creative Director of Raucous), Jo Clifford (Playwright), Deirdre O'Halloran (Literary Manager, Bush Theatre), Charlotte Josephine (Actor and Writer), Lucy Morrison (Associate Director, Royal Court Theatre), Morgan Lloyd Malcolm (Playwright), and Nina Steiger (Senior Dramaturg, National Theatre).

At the end of the year, participants will be invited to attend a debrief session led by Sherman Theatre's Artistic Director Joe Murphy.

Throughout the year, participants will also be invited to Sherman Theatre production press nights and to other networking opportunities. Participants will be encouraged to see Sherman Theatre as their home and as somewhere where they would have space to develop work. Unheard Voices is part of the Sherman Theatre's work to support artist development and to build a dynamic and resilient Welsh theatre sector. Sherman Theatre's Artistic Director Joe Murphy said: "Unheard Voices is just the first step in cementing Sherman Theatre's place in our community as a home for all Welsh and Wales-based artists."

The programme is open to Welsh and Wales-based writers with any level of experience. Writers need not have extensive experience of writing for the stage. A panel of experts has been assembled to consider submissions from those who would like to take part in Unheard Voices. Places will be offered based on potential and submissions will be accepted in both Welsh and English. The panel includes playwright and Sherman Theatre associate artist Katherine Chandler, writer and theatre maker Branwen Davies, director Sara Lloyd, actor and Sherman Theatre associate artist Suzanne Packer and BBC Writersroom development producer Helen Perry.

Details on how to apply can be found online at shermantheatre.co.uk/unheardvoices. Deadline for submissions is April 15 at 12pm.

NEW RETIREMENT APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN COWBRIDGE

Wouldn't it be nice to meet like-minded neighbours?

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Care home hosts eisteddfod to celebrate Welsh culture across generations



RMBI Home Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court hosted an Eisteddfod last week, attended by residents and staff from other care homes from across south Wales in partnership with Bridgend Council and a local charity, and great day was had by all!

The idea to stage the celebration of Welsh festival of literature, music and performance came from Menter Bro Ogwr, a not for profit organisation which promotes the Welsh language. They asked the team at Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court if they would host the event.

The Home looked glorious, decorated in Welsh colours, and each of the visiting care homes brought delicious traditional food with them to be enjoyed by all. The festival started off with a wonderful performance from Nottage Primary School Tiddlers, who sang two Welsh songs.

Guests listened to Welsh poetry and enjoyed traditional arts and crafts competitions, including flower arranging and Welsh cake baking. There was also a group singing competition and a prize

for the best traditional costume. Folk dancing group Dawnsywr Pen-y-bont performed and the day ended with everyone singing the Welsh national anthem.

The event was organised by Caelan Straker-Jones of Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Older Adult Liaison Team from the Mental Health and Well-being Department of the Princess of Wales Hospital and Marged Thomas of Menter Bro Ogwr. It was hosted in Welsh and English by Amanda Evans, of Menter Bro Ogwr.

Albert Edward activities coordinators, Hannah Hutchinson and Mandy Kilpatrick-Evans, said: "Everyone had such a fantastic day and our residents loved having so many visitors! We're so grateful to all the care homes who joined us and to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen. We hope it will become an annual event."

Marged Thomas said: "I've wanted to organise an event like this since I began doing Welsh activities with residents at Foxtroy House. It was a joy to see people of different generations come together to celebrate Welsh language and heritage. Thanks to all who made it possible – especially the enthusiastic participants."

End exploitation of female farmers, says MP

BRIDGEND MP Jamie Wallis is calling for urgent action to end the exploitation of female cocoa farmers.

Dr Wallis, a Welsh Conservative, attended a reception in Parliament organised by the Fairtrade Foundation. He said: "There is a gender pay gap in this industry with women paid as little as 23p a day. It is important that people buy chocolate and cocoa products that bear the Fairtrade logo. That's the best way to ensure that people working in countries in Africa where cocoa is

produced get enough money to lead a decent life.

"The UK chocolate industry is worth £4 billion a year and we eat more chocolate per head than any other European country so we can all make a difference.

"There is massive exploitation of everyone involved in this industry, with the average wage for men in places like Ghana standing at just 75p a day, and the women are worse off – working longer hours and earning less."

Community funding frenzy at MP and AM's advice day

REPRESENTATIVES from clubs, community groups and charities from across the Ogmore constituency packed out Aberkenfig's Community Church on March 6 at the latest Funding Advice Day held by local MP and AM, Chris Elmore and Huw Irranca-Davies.

This was the fourth annual advice day the Ogmore duo have hosted, previously holding events in Pencoed, Llanharan, and Maesteg. A wide range of different funding providers attended this year's advice day including the National Lottery Community Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Sport Wales, and the Arts Council of Wales. Attendees were able to listen to presentations from all of the key lottery-funded providers and were then given the opportunity for one-to-one advice sessions.

Mr Elmore said: "Every year, it's great to see so many fantastic clubs and community groups seeking advice and support to help them grow."

"Huw and I know just how important the many brilliant groups we have across Ogmore are to our communities, and we'll continue to do all we

can to support them."

In previous years, local groups have been successful in securing funds following Mr Elmore and Mr Irranca-Davies's advice day. Attendees of this year's event are being encouraged to keep in touch as they continue to seek future funding opportunities.

Mr Irranca-Davies said: "I'm delighted that this event keeps growing year on year and is helping to bring more and more funding into our communities. I hope that all attendees have been able to have useful conversations today which will help them secure the funding they need, to grow and provide even more benefits for local residents."

"If you weren't able to attend this year's event but are part of a club or group that is looking for funding, please get in touch with us, and we'll be sure to get a copy of this year's funding back sent out to you."

Local members of clubs, community groups, or charities who were unable to attend Friday's event are encouraged to get in touch with Mr Elmore or Mr Irranca-Davies, who are in the process of sending funding packs to those who are still seeking support. To receive a pack, email chris.elmore.mp@parliament.uk or huw.irranca-davies@assembly.wales.

Maesteg WI talk climate change with local AM



MAESTEG WI invited their local AM, Huw Irranca-Davies, to one of their monthly meetings as a guest speaker to discuss the climate change crisis affecting our world.

The Ogmore AM updated the group on the Welsh Government's declaration of a 'Climate Crisis' and spoke about some of the Government's work at a local, national and global level to help tackle climate change.

In depth conversations were held on climate change, biodiversity loss and many other issues.

The active community group also used the opportunity to update their AM about their extensive campaigning efforts on micro and single-use plastics.

Following the visit, Mr Irranca-Davies said: "We had an excellent discussion on how we, individually and as a society, can make the changes needed and at the speed we need to help in the climate and environmental crisis."

"It's always good to meet up with local groups and to hear about the work they are doing, not least the WI's fantastic campaigning on micro-plastics."

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- Double Glazing Throughout
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- Integrated Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Sought After Location

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RSPCA welcomes dog breeding review

RECOMMENDATIONS to the Welsh Government by the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group on Wales' dog breeding laws have been made recently.

Claire Lawson of RSPCA said: "While the introduction of new dog breeding laws in 2014 marked a big step forward for canine welfare, RSPCA Cymru has long highlighted the need for future improvements to protect stud dogs, breeding bitches and puppies across the country which is why this urgent review

was so important. RSPCA Cymru was pleased to contribute to this review, via our role on the Animal Welfare Network for Wales. The current staff-to-dog ratio has always been too high for staff to meet the needs of the number of dogs this regulation allows them to keep. Puppies need care, attention and socialisation, so a new ratio would be a step forward. We know councils need proper resourcing to enforce dog breeding laws. Any enhancement of dog breeding law must be done with improvements to complementary legislation including dog traceability, compulsory

microchipping compliance, a ban on third-party sales of puppies and consideration of a new cat breeding law too. Only then can we have a system that is truly fit for purpose and protects animals from bad breeding practices. The Welsh Government have shown a strong response to this report and we look forward to ensuring local authorities are equipped to tackle illegal poor dog breeding, the welfare consequences of such practices; and that regulations are enhanced to ensure Wales loses its sad label as a bastion for the murky world of illegal, or damaging, puppy breeding practices."

Just a minute: spare 60 seconds to help save lives

A MERE minute could be all it takes to gain vital knowledge that will help Counter Terrorism Police keep everyone safe.

From March 6, a short film is being shown in cinemas across the country highlighting possible signs of terrorist activity and explaining what the public can do to help officers. The 60-second advert, which has already won a number of industry awards, will be shown in cinemas before many of the upcoming top-rated movies

and is also available online.

Called 'Look Again', the powerful production shows what sort of behaviour could indicate someone is planning a terrorist attack. It explains how members of the public can ACT to report their concerns online at gov.uk/ACT. Crucially, it stresses not to worry you might be wasting police time.

Detective Superintendent Noel Harris from the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU) said: "One of the key messages of the film is that life has no rewind button. If you

report concerns and they turn out to be nothing that's completely fine – but you can't turn the clock back. It's much better to contact us and let our specially-trained officers make an assessment. As the film says, reporting won't ruin lives, but it could save them."

Look Again is in selected cinemas in Cardiff from March 6 to April 26 and online.

Anyone with concerns about possible terrorist activity can contact police in confidence at gov.uk/ACT. In an emergency, always call 999.

Tea time for guide dog Tetley



GUIDE Dogs Cymru has come up with a tasty way to mark National Tea Day on April 21.

The charity wants people to enjoy a piece of cake and a cuppa with friends at their very own Guide Dogs tea party. This could take place at home, at work, in a community group or at school. There are no set rules – just choose any day to suit you.

Sign up to receive a free fundraising kit to inspire you. Inside you'll find posters and invitations to help you spread the word. Get your paws on free bunting, cake flags and edible puppy cake toppers. There's even a puppy sweepstake to help boost your tea totals.

Every pound you raise will help Guide Dogs to provide its life-changing services. Just £25

could buy a white harness, the symbol of a fully qualified guide dog like the aptly-named Tetley, a Labrador working in Bridgend.

Tetley's owner, Tanya Mackenzie-Shearan, said: "Having a guide dog means I can live an independent life. I feel more confident, and my family no longer have to worry that I will walk into something and hurt myself."



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Knights are delighted to offer for sale this extended, well presented semi-detached residence situated on the highly desirable Garden Suburb development in the West end of Barry enjoying sea views.

Accommodation briefly comprising; Entrance hallway, generous size lounge, dining room, kitchen, snug and bathroom to the ground floor. Three bedrooms and shower room to the first floor. Enclosed, south facing rear garden and off road parking for numerous vehicles. Garage.



FAIRFIELD CLOSE, LLANTWIT MAJOR, CF61 2XL

£210,000

Knights are delighted to offer for sale this semi-detached property situated in a cul de sac location within highly desirable Llantwit Major.

Accommodation briefly comprising; Entrance hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Modern fitted kitchen. Small lean-to conservatory. Three bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway and garage. EPC rating: D.



CAMBRIDGE STREET, BARRY, CF62 6PJ

£395,000

A rare opportunity to purchase this beautifully presented and well maintained three bedroom detached residence benefiting from sea views, situated in the highly desirable West end of Barry, within walking distance of Porthkerry Country Park and Romilly Park.

Easy access to shops, beaches, the Knap and public transport. Accommodation briefly comprising; Entrance porch, hallway, two reception rooms and kitchen to the ground floor. Three double bedrooms, study/dressing room and family bathroom to the first floor. Well-kept south facing rear garden, driveway and double tandem garage.



PENCOEDTRE ROAD, BARRY, CF63 1SD

£235,000

Bags of potential on offer with this detached bungalow set on a generous plot situated in the East end of Barry enjoying open views across Pencoedtre playing field.

Rarely to the market this property benefits from; Entrance hallway. Living room. Conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast room. Two bedrooms. Bathroom and separate w/c. Double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. Driveway providing off road parking for up to four vehicles. EPC Rating: D.



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Train company steps in to help ex Flybe staff

THOUSANDS of staff affected by the collapse of the aviation operator Flybe are being urged to look at employment vacancies with Transport for Wales, who have announced that they have a number of jobs coming up including onboard customer hosts and chefs.

The Minister for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates, said: "My thoughts go out to the thousands of hardworking Flybe employees who have been left devastated by the news. I am working closely with all my fellow Assembly Members and stakeholder partners to ensure we're doing all that we can to support everyone affected; to minimise the social and economic impacts for those most affected.

"I am pleased that Transport for Wales has shared opportunities to join the TfW family across their communication platforms, to show that the staff at Flybe and their specialist skills are very much in demand across Wales."

Marie Daly of Transport for Wales Rail Services said: "We

recognise that there are some highly skilled, customer focused people who will no longer have jobs, and we strongly encourage anyone affected and looking for a new opportunity to get in touch with us, to find out what roles will be coming up in the future.

"We have ambitious plans to transform the transport network for the people of Wales and the borders and want the best people possible to join us on that journey." As well as providing potential employment, Transport for Wales have already announced that they are showing support to Flybe passengers and staff by providing free travel on their services for one week, which remains valid until March 12.

Affected Flybe passengers are advised to show their Flybe booking confirmation or boarding pass to a Transport for Wales booking operator when they book their train ticket. Anyone looking for career opportunities with Transport for Wales or Transport for Wales Rail Services is encouraged to send their CV to flybe@tfw.wales and include a description of the roles they are interested in.

AM demands more proactive approach to tackle flood risks

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has called on the Labour-Vale Independent run Vale of Glamorgan Council to take a more proactive approach to combating flood risks across the county.

Several areas were affected in recent storms, with the Sportsman's Rest pub in Peterston-super-Ely flooding three times in recent months. As residents faced the impacts of Storm Jorge, the Vale of Glamorgan's Court Road depot ran out of sandbags, with people being turned away. Mr Davies called for greater preparedness from the council, emphasising that impacts were foreseeable, with previous storms causing extensive damage in neighbouring RCT.

He also pressed the need for improved flood defences, with

reports of more flooding in Llantwit Major and Llanmaes emerging.

Mr Davies said: "Our emergency services have done an incredible job during the recent floods, putting themselves in danger to protect us. But in the Vale, we have been let down by a Labour-Vale Independent Council that has not got on top of the problem. When Court Road ran out of sandbags, this was unforgivable. We all knew the storm was coming, so the council should have made sure they were stocked up.

"It's quite clear improved defences are required, with the Sportsman's Rest in Peterston flooding several times in a matter of months. More must be done to protect people who have had to suffer the devastation that flooding causes, time after time."

Sculpture commissioned for Llantwit



OVER the last 18 months, various groups have been working together to create a sculpture to represent the community of Llantwit Major.

Original discussions were undertaken by Llantwit Major Town Council and the town study steering group (comprising town councillors and local organisations and businesses).

Gwyneth Price, a local artist, designed the sculpture depicting her vision of Llantwit Major. She wanted it to be made from brushed steel. Requests were sent to businesses asking if they

would assist with sponsoring the sculpture and we were delighted to have the offer of assistance and financial support from two organisations.

Andrew Tipping from AP Engineering Ltd donated his time and equipment free of charge to plan and cut out the brushed steel sculpture. Alun Griffiths Ltd agreed to pay for all materials and to install the sculpture, a complex process, and it was installed by the new roundabout at the end of the northern access road along the B4265.

Full steam ahead for project to re-open railway

A GROUP of local enthusiasts are looking to open a steam railway in Bridgend or Neath Port Talbot and are looking for potential volunteers who might be interested in getting involved.

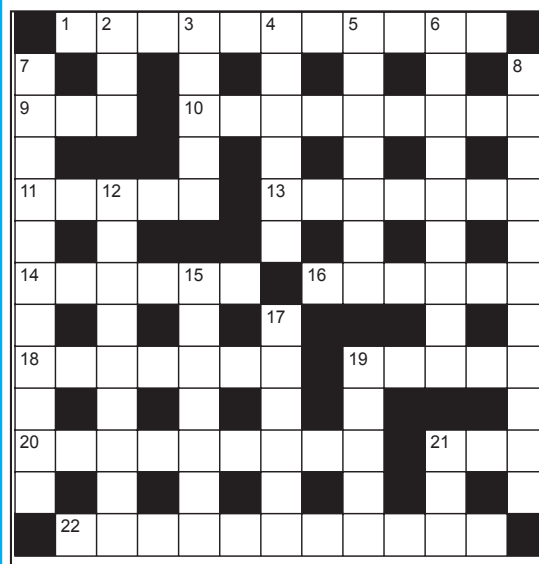
The South Wales Narrow Gauge

and Miniature Railway group are in negotiations with a local council in regard to opening the railway, and need to assemble a core team to build, maintain and operate the line.

If you are interested, contact The South Wales Narrow Gauge and Miniature Railway Group at swngmr@outlook.com.

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CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

- Presenting things in a playful way? (11)
- Suitable for the leading characters of any provincial theatre (3)
- A complete course for drivers (4,5)
- After disgraceful act it remains silent (5)
- One may be spellbound by the look of this (4,3)
- Lacking sound quality - a pick-me-up needed (6)
- Graphically describe some of the seaside picture-houses (6)
- It can be proved that Tom here is upset (7)
- Food from a street in Pennsylvania (5)
- Security force but not in the van! (9)
- One mate - father has fifty (3)
- Lacking distinction - see fast rule broken (11)

Down

- The deserter returns as a sailor (3)
- 3 & 15Dn. There's no power left, if this saying is true! (5,2,5)
- Bank official is one who supplies the account (6)
- Cross when the realist is disturbed (7)
- One could make veiled references to these establishments (9)
- Former painters are seasoned experts (4,7)
- Sea silently disturbed in a fundamental way (11)
- Work together as surgeons? (2-7)
- See 3 Down
- I'm getting the couple to weaken (6)
- Foot control is partly stopped altogether (5)
- The unpleasant matter of the cat without a tail (3)

SOLUTIONS
Across: 1 Dramatising; 9 Apt; 10 Golf links; 11 Tacit; 13 Evil eye; 14 Atomic; 16 Delect; 18 Theorem; 19 Pasta; 20 Rearguard; 21 Pat; 22 Featureless.
Down: 2 Rat; 3 Might; 4 Teller; 5 Saffire; 6 Nummeries; 7 Past masters; 8 Essentially; 12 Co-operate; 15 Is right; 17 Impair; 19 Pedal; 21 Pus.

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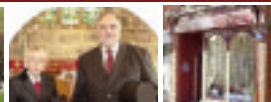
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Family Notices

CLEMENTS**Lyndon**

Passed away on Sunday, 1st March at home after a short illness, Lyndon, aged 72 years, will be sadly missed by his wife Susan, four children, Lyndon Stephanie Lee and Paul and his seven grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Lyndon enjoyed life to the full.

His funeral will be held on Monday, 16th March at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, telephone 01446 407962.

WILLIAMS**Dr David M J**

Sadly Dr David Williams passed peacefully on 5th March 2020 at Llandough Hospital, aged 85 years. Husband to Dr Valerie Williams, father of Jonathan and Anna, father-in-law to Jayne and grandfather to Alex, Jenny, Chris and Evan.

Greatly missed by the whole family.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at 10am on Tuesday, 17th March at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to RNIB or St John Ambulance (Wales)

LOYNS**Hannah Morgan**

Peacefully, at home, on 27th February, Hannah of Cowbridge. Cherished daughter of Kimberley and Andrew, beloved sister of Luke and Charlotte, much loved granddaughter of Patricia and Jean and the late Leslie and Brian.

Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Friday, 20th March at 1pm, followed by private interment.

Donations if so desired for The Brain Tumour Charity and/or CANCERactive c/o W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. Tel: 01443 223368.

SALVIDGE**Cyril**

Peacefully on 4th March 2020 at Sam Davis Ward, Barry Hospital, Cyril in his 92nd year, passed away. Beloved husband and father; he will be greatly missed by all his family.

Cyril will be greatly missed by his wife of 70 years, Ellen and his daughters.

Resting at J. Pidgeon & Son, 539 Cowbridge Road East, Victoria Park, Cardiff (02920 226604) until the service on Wednesday, 18th March at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2pm.

Close family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of Cyril's memory may be made which will be collected and passed onto the Sam Davis Ward, Barry Hospital.

WHYTE**David (Chalky)**

Sadly on 4th March 2020 at Llandough Hospital, David, aged 87 years. Beloved husband of the late Shirley, much loved dad of Ruth, Heather, Sammy, Robert and Becky, loved bampi to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

David will be greatly missed by his step-children family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 25th March at 10.45am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Ward East 8 Llandough Hospital c/o the funeral director.

LONG**Hilda**

Hilda Long died peacefully at home on Wednesday, 4th March 2020, aged 94 years. Devoted and dearly beloved wife of the late John, much loved mother to Tacy, Michael, Frances and Ruth, mother-in-law, grandma, great-grandma and friend to many.

Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, CF35 6AB at 11am on Thursday, 19th March 2020.

Family flowers only please. Donations in memory can be made to BRACE Alzheimer's Research, South West & South Wales, or the RNLI via W.H. Preene & Son, Funeral Services, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. Tel: 01443 223368

MITCHELL**Dilys**

Dilys passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital on 24th February 2020, aged 76 years. Loving mother and grandmother.

Dilys will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service on Friday, 20th March 2020 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent direct to Y Bwthyn, c/o Princess of Wales Hospital, Coity Road, Bridgend, CF31 1RQ. All further enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Tel: - 01656 653156.

BUBBINS**Albert 'Sam'**

Peacefully on 2nd March at Collegefields Nursing Home, Barry, Sam aged 97 years, beloved husband to the late Olive, much loved dad of Sheila, Bob, Julie, Chris and their partners. Cherished gramps and gaga to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sam will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, 19th March at 2pm.

Family floral tributes only, donations if desired may be made at the service to support Ty Hafan, Children's Hospice for Wales in memory of Sam. Further enquiries please telephone 01446 407962. Family request something colourful may be worn.

The family wish to thank all staff at College Fields Nursing Home for the continuous care, support and kindness shown to Sam and his family.

Family Notices

WILLIAMS**Gareth (Gary)**

Passed away peacefully on 3rd March 2020. Much-loved by sister Dawne and a devoted father to Nathan, William and Georgina. A celebration of Gareth's life will take place on Friday, 20th March 2020 at Cardiff Natural Burial Meadow, Coedardhydyglyn Park, St Nicholas, Cardiff, CF5 6SF at 1.30pm.

Please wear suitable footwear. No flowers please but donations would be welcomed for Myeloma UK online at www.garethwilliams.muchloved.com or via the Funeral Director.

All enquiries to Parkman Funeral Home, 19 Camm's Corner, Dinas Powys, CF64 4QY, 02922 362101.

DONOVAN**Paul**

In loving memory of Paul Donovan, who sadly passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at home, aged 74 years on the 27th February 2020.

Beloved husband of the late Marian, who he has dearly missed. Loved father of Leah and Aled. Adored Cu of Nia and Harry. A retired teacher who gave so much.

Paul will be missed by everyone who knew him. Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Friday, 20th March at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm.

Family flowers

Only donations in lieu, if so desired, for the NSPCC c/o the funeral director.

KING**Muriel Marshall**

Peacefully on Saturday, 29th February, Muriel passed away at Llandough Hospital, aged 90 years. Cherished and beloved wife of the late Alan, dearly loved mother of Paul and the late Jonathan, loving mother-in-law of Ruth and Gillian. Adored Grandma of Simon, Rachel and husband Robert. New great-grandma of Lucia.

The Thanksgiving Service will take place on Thursday, 19th March at St David's Methodist Church, Barry at 12 noon, followed by cremation 1pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to Guide Dogs and the British Heart Foundation through W. James & Sons, Funeral Directors, Chapel of Rest, Fonmon, Barry, CF62 3BJ.

LONG**Susan (née Woods)**

After a very short illness at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Tuesday, 3rd March with all her loving family around her. Much loved sister of Gary, Anthony, Sheelagh, Jayne, Stephen, Paul, Sean, Christina and Jason.

Susan will be deeply missed by her brothers and sisters in law and all her nephews and nieces. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 23rd March 2020, service and cremation 12 noon at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Support c/o the funeral director.

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Acknowledgements

GRAY**David Barry**

Sheila, Mike and family wish to thank everyone for their sincere messages of condolence and attendance at Dave's funeral on Friday.

Honoured to have had the participation of personnel from MOD St Athan.

Special thanks to Canon Edwin Counsell and A.G. Adams Funeralcare for their dedication and professionalism.

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Athletic come out on top in cup derby game

**BRIDGEND Athletic progressed to the
final of the Mid Glamorgan District Cup
with a 36-12 victory over Maesteg Celtic
at Maesteg RFC on March 5.**

They will play the winners of the other semi final
between Aberavon Quins and Pencoed. It was the
first meeting of the sides in a very long time as the
Athletic played last season in Division One East
Central, while Maesteg Celtic spent a single season
in Division One West Central. The Celtic are strong
contenders for promotion back to that division this
season.

It was a prominent night for two Athletic players
who went to play for Maesteg from the double-win-
ning Welsh Youth League and Cup Athletic side of
season 2008-2009. Athletic captain and also captain
of that youth side, Ben Howe, scored two tries in a
man of the match display, while hooker Lee Murphy
was making his 100th senior Athletic appearance.

Celtic had an early penalty opportunity which
sailed just wide of the upright. A similar Athletic
attempt by outside half Robin Davies suffered the
same fate.

A moment later a second-long range effort by
Davies bounced quickly off the crossbar, where Ben
Howe following up just failed to gather cleanly right
under the posts.

A third Athletic penalty was kicked for a five-metre
driving maul line out. The initial surge was
held up but a series of thrusts from locks Ben
Cording and Jonathan Stoker finally saw flanker
Sean Williams force his way over close to the posts.
Davies converted.

The rest of the half was mainly uneventful. Celtic
were committing more players and effort at rucks
and were rewarded with a raft of penalties against
a lack-lustre Athletic, who had not played a full 80

minutes in nearly seven weeks.

The half time break seemed to rejuvenate the
Athletic as they went straight on the offensive.
The front row of Wayne Fooks, Lee Murphy and
Matthew Greenman were exerting pressure on their
Celtic counterparts.

Celtic were caught offside during an Athletic
back move and Davies increased the lead to 10-0.
The Athletic were now playing with confidence
and when scrum half Aled Thomas fed flanker Ben
Howe, he sold a dummy and raced 25 metres to cross
under the posts. Davies converted.

From the restart, the Athletic centres Owain
Leyshon and Tom Jenkins fed full back Geraint
Roberts to put wing Sam Richards clear to sprint 30
metres and cross in the corner to give the Athletic a
22-0 lead in the 52nd minute.

Celtic came back into the game but it wasn't until
the 68th minute that the game came back to life,
with four tries in the final 12 minutes. Celtic, with
two quick tries from forward drives, reduced the
deficit to 22-12.

This stirred the Athletic and No 8 Ben Davies
finished a handling move to cross. Then with the
final play, a training ground move involving No 8
Ben Davies and flanker Ben Howe saw Howe cross
for his second try. Davies converted both tries for a
match haul of 11 points.

There is now a three-way tie between Ben Howe,
Lee Murphy and Sam Richards as leading Ath try
scorer for the season with six tries apiece. It was
good to see wing Tom James play 60 minutes
returning from a three-month hamstring injury.

It is hoped prop Matthew Norman will also be
back for the next league game on March 28 at home
to Waunarlwydd.

Adrian Burt

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Tony Yates takes the Honda HR-V 1.5 i-VTEC on the road

THE HR-V offers an unmatched combination of attributes, which includes dynamic styling that is combined perfectly with class-leading interior space and versatility, including the renowned Honda Magic Seat System.

This compact SUV is also capable of returning an impressive MPG and even more dynamic emission figures, meaning you will end up being very surprised just how far a single tank will take you.

If it's a family vehicle you are after, then don't just take my word for it, my children also loved it. They said it was quite cool being in the back and to my relief, they were far enough apart from each other to make the family drive out even more of a pleasure.

The HR-V has the lines of a coupe and the robustness of an SUV.

Power and Efficiency: The 1.5 litre i-VTEC (130PS) has 155Nm of torque and is a fantastic little engine that is so far this year one of the better ones I have tested. I am also happy to report that the engine feels very refined and has bags of torque available when you need it most; which makes motorway driving easy, quiet and unfussy. The HR-V will also return a combined 52.3MPG if driven with a steady right foot – and the emissions came in at a very respectable 125 g/km. Top speed will also stop at around 116mph and 0-62 will come in at around 11.4 seconds.

My test car was fitted with an array of fuel-saving features which helps you get more miles for your money. Even when worked hard, the 1.5 Litre VTEC does its best to please you in many different ways. It's not blistering fast, and it won't make you feel like you can take anything on at the lights, but it is very refined, and I'm happy to give this engine four stars thanks to its willingness to do its very best.

On the road: The HR-V does not feel heavy or cumbersome at all and you can sense that Honda has put a lot of effort into setting up the suspension and chassis. The HR-V will also keep you and your passengers firmly in their seats, thanks to a suspension setup that won't have you bouncing all over the place like a rubber ball. I also liked how it



cornered, and how it just glided across all the lumps and bumps in the road ahead, even when the road is full of potholes (like my road). Also, it's an SUV, so it's meant to deal with things like floodwater and torrential rain with relative ease, along with the odd muddy field or short uneven track.

Interior and Technology: The interior is of a good standard and its controls are well set out and all the dials are clear to read. The space inside is also better than most – and if needed, you could easily fit in a large family. Plus everything inside the HR-V feels very well put together. Passenger legroom is fine, as is the boot space – (470 litres) seats up and seats folded flat capacity of (1533 litres).

On the inside: Standard equipment from SE trim upwards includes features such as; curtain airbags front and rear, ABS, Brake Assist, City-Brake active system, emergency stop signal, hill start assist,

traction control, vehicle stability assist with agile handling assist, ISOfix points, forward collision warning, intelligent speed limiter, lane departure warning, highbeam support and traffic sign recognition system. This is just a small amount of what you can find. My test vehicle was also fitted out in EX trim, so this included heated front and rear seats, smart key entry and start, leather interior, rear privacy glass, LED headlights, rear view camera, and a fantastic Honda Connect Infotainment System with Garmin 7" touchscreen navigation.

In summary: A great buy; if you are searching for one of the best looking compact SUVs currently on the market with the addition of some top specification and enough space to keep any family happy, then the HR-V could be the perfect fit.

Price: £27,500 OTR, not including fitted options.

Budget boost as S4C gets £15m VAT refund

WELSH language broadcaster S4C is expected to benefit from around £15 million worth of VAT refunds every year, to be announced by the Chancellor in the Budget.

Delivering on its promise to level up the UK's regions and nations, the UK Government will bring S4C's VAT arrangements into line with UK-wide broadcasters BBC and ITN, as it will be able to recover the VAT it pays on its costs from April 2021.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said: "S4C has become an integral part of the fabric of Welsh culture. We are determined to support the channel so it can continue to broadcast a variety of programmes for hundreds of thousands of Welsh speakers that watch it every week."

The public service broadcaster plays a crucial part in the creative industries in Wales. The Government's measure delivers on a manifesto pledge to support the broadcaster, which was

founded in 1982 and has an audience of around 665,000 TV viewers throughout the UK every week.

Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said: "This announcement would enable S4C to continue its mission to reach the widest audience possible across a range of contemporary platforms. With S4C the primary commissioner of Welsh language programming and content, this promises to be a major boost to the sector and helps secure its future."

S4C had been relying on funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's since April 2019 to cover its VAT payments, after it became unable to recover its VAT costs following a change in its business model. The change will be made in the autumn Finance Bill, meaning that S4C will be refunded the VAT it incurs from April 2021. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will continue to cover S4C's VAT payments until then.

DL

Blue Plaque marks the birthplace of a remarkable Welshman



IN a long overdue tribute, a Blue Plaque to mark the birthplace of Iolo Morganwg, one of Wales' most charismatic cultural and political heroes, has been unveiled.

Vaughan Roderick, BBC Welsh Affairs Editor, unveiled the plaque at Penn-on, Llanccarfan, on March 11 marking the 273rd anniversary of Iolo's birth. Iolo Morganwg was the bardic name of the 18th century stone-mason, poet, historian, political activist and founder of the Gorsedd of the Bards. He has been long celebrated as a man who powered culture and national pride in Wales, which endures

almost 300 years later.

A modern bungalow now stands in place of the modest cottage where Iolo was born as Edward Williams, but the footings of the old building are clearly visible beneath, and the landscape around his childhood home remains largely unchanged. Last year, the Llanccarfan Society launched a crowdfunding appeal to raise money for a plaque to honour this historic site. Chair Gordon Kemp said: "The village has a rich history, but oddly Iolo Morganwg's roots in Llanccarfan have never been commemorated. We were delighted to be able to set this right, and were swept away by the warmth of public response."

Iolo was a self-taught polymath; antiquarian, agriculturalist, geologist, herbalist, collector of manuscripts, recorder of folk songs, story-teller, entertainer, campaigner against slavery. Vaughan Roderick said: "Every age has its own Iolo. It is astonishing that it has taken so long to raise a memorial to Iolo in his own backyard, but we are at last correcting an omission and honouring a man who is alive yet in the imaginations of many."

Former Archdruid of the National Eisteddfod, Jim Parc Nest, said: "Iolo would be full of admiration for the contemporary struggle to achieve self-respect for Wales by becoming a self-governing nation."

Leisure centre available for lease

THE Vale Council is seeking proposals for the future use of Holm View Leisure Centre.

The facility is currently operated by a management company, but that arrangement is due to end on January 1 next year.

The Council is now offering the building on a long-term lease, for use by the local and wider community and is situated on Skomer Road, just a couple of miles from Barry Leisure Centre.

Clr Kathryn McCaffer, Vale of Glamorgan Council

Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture, said: "The current operator's contract for Holm View expires in January 2021 and it is not financially viable for the Council to continue running the centre."

"We are making the building available for long-term lease and are conscious of the important role Holm View Leisure Centre plays within the local area and are looking forward to receiving proposals for how it could be used for the benefit of the community in the future."

Visit our website for all the latest news and sports reports

Barry Town stun TNS with dramatic two-goal comeback

TWO fortuitous goals helped Barry salvage an precious point at TNS last Friday night (March 6), keeping the Jenner Park outfit in contention for European football, ahead of Saturday's crunch match at home to Bala Town (4.30pm).

On two of their past four visits to Park Hall, Barry had beaten their professional rivals by a single strike, but Friday's match invited closer comparisons with their memorable meeting of February 2019, as a Kayne McLaggan spot-kick and Jonathan Hood free-kick rescued a share of the spoils.

That day, it took mere seconds for forward Kurtis Byrne to open the scoring in the home side's favour, leaving Barry to chase the game for over 90 minutes, before it reached its classic finale.

On Friday, Gavin Chesterfield's team were in a similar position, trailing TNS from the third minute, after Dean Ebbe headed in at the near post.

They could have been ahead even earlier, had Ryan Brobbel's speculative curler not hit the top of Mike Lewis' crossbar.

Irishman Ebbe doubled his tally in the 11th minute, capitalising on some frail Barry defending at the same post to nod home, after the initial header from a TNS corner kick came back off the woodwork.

Much like the scenes of last February, the threat of a mauling loomed large, yet Barry somehow survived the storm.

While Saints were certainly comfortable, Town had a foothold after 56 minutes, when Luke Cummings' looping cross from the right flank eluded everyone and ended up in the back of Paul Harrison's net.

Nevertheless, the hosts remained a force to be reckoned with and almost crushed Barry's comeback in an instant when Ebbe, chasing his hat-trick, uncorked a powerful drive that cannoned off the post.

The former Inverness Caledonian Thistle marksman later went close with a flick and a header, but neither allowed the 25-year old to lay claim to the match ball, as Barry continued to ride their luck.

After a bold triple substitution in the 79th minute, Evan Press, Keyon Reffell and Jack



Compton replaced Robbie Patten, Drew Fahiya and captain Jordan Cotterill, Compton's well-judged corner found teammate Luke Cooper in an advanced attacking role, and his Cooper's hopeful connection hit Aaron Edwards on the hip, putting it past Harrison for the game-saving own goal.

It was a dramatic yet comedic conclusion; one with a number of implications for the Cymru Premier table, as Barry remain in the hunt for third and a potential return to the UEFA Europa League stage, while TNS stay second, four points behind Connah's Quay Nomads with only six fixtures remaining.

This Saturday (March 14), Barry face that apparent make-or-break showdown with Bala at Jenner Park, an old-fashioned six-pointer that could see

the space between the two sides trimmed to four points or stretched to 10.

The latter scenario would surely the death knell for Barry's aspirations of finishing third.

European entrants for four successive seasons, Bala's spot in the Europa League qualifying rounds was taken by Barry last season, following a 5-2 comeback win against the Lakesiders at Maes Tegid.

Kick-off at Jenner Park is at the later time of 4.30pm to avoid clashing with the Wales v Scotland rugby international, with admission payable on the gate at £8 (adults), with concessions available.

ASHLEY COX

Barry and District Clubs League

THE latest results from the Barry and District Clubs League are:

Crib Division 1: Liberals 10, West End 5; Romilly Railway 8, Wyndham Cons 7; Moors Boys 9, Cadoxton Cons 6.

League: Romilly Railway 153, Rhose Social 145, Liberals 141, West End 141, Wyndham Cons 141, Moors Boys 137, Cadoxton Cons 132.

Skittles Division 1: Sea View Exiles 7, Rhoosters 0; Barries Boys 4, Allsorts 3; Barry Town FC 3, Rhose Social B 4; Liberals C 3, Liberals A 4; Rhose Social C 7, Slammers 0; Rugby Club 0, West End C 7; West End D 6, Cambrian Flyers 1; King William XII 1, Rhose Social A 6.

League: West End D 112.0, Rhose Social C 102.0, Sea View Exiles 97.0, Rugby Club 87.5, Rhose Social A 83.5, Barry Town FC 80.0, Allsorts 76.5, West End C 76.5, Barries Boys 76.0, King William XII 74.0, Liberals C 70.5, Slammers 64.5, Rhose Social B 55.0, Rhoosters 53.5, Cambrian Flyers 48.0, Liberals A 47.5.

Snooker Division 1: Rhose Social C 4, Rhose Social B 1; Penarth Cons A 1, West End C 4; Savoy B 3, Wyndham Cons A 2; Liberators 2, Cadoxton Cons B 3; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Harbour B 2.

League: Harbour B 76, West End C 75, Cadoxton Cons Z 71, Savoy B 61, Cadoxton Cons B 59, Penarth Cons A 55, Wyndham Cons A 52, Rhose Social C 37, Rhose Social B 29, Penarth Cons B 28.

*Liberators 21.

Snooker Division 2: Cadoxton Cons A 3, Sully Sports A 2; West End A 2, Savoy C 3; Harbour A 2, Market Street A 3; Market Street C 3, Services Social B 2; West End B 2, Market Street B 3.

League: Market Street C 71, Savoy C 64, Services Social B 63, Market Street A 60, West End A 59, Wyndham Cons D 55, Market Street B 51, Cadoxton Cons A 47, Harbour A 47, Sully Sports A 41, West End B 37.

* = Points Deducted

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

St Mary's seniors manage two competitions – despite the weather

THE St Mary's GC senior section scribe, Norman Lloyd, was quick to stress that his senior section pairs better ball win of the previous week was for the greater part, down to the excellent play of his partner of the day, the rapidly-improving Mike Tayler.

Lloyd headed the leaderboard in a singles Stableford competition played over 12 holes. The day proved to be a rare oasis of dry weather in the seemingly endless rain and attracted a decent field of 24 members. The ground remained very wet and muddy underfoot. The section's handicap secretary, Gordon Campbell, posted an early score of 27 points. Lloyd's matching 27 points with a better count-back score over the last four holes proved

sufficient to rain on Campbell's parade and snatch the victory. In their second competition, 19 of their number teed off in a 'Dusty Bin' (321) stableford competition for teams of three over an even shorter course of just 10 holes. In this format, all three scores count on hole one, the best two scores on hole two and just the best single score on hole three, etc. The total number of players (19) necessitated one four ball team for which a nominated player dropped out on each hole so that only three scores were considered. Two teams tied on 43 points with the four ball team of Dave Hughes, Wayne Newton, Gareth Jones and Meic Edwards claiming the win on count-back. Graham Jones, Doug Mein and Mike Tayler were the disappointed second-placed team.

Golfers donate £1,500 to diabetes charity

ROBBIE Norris, the 2019 captain of the Cottrell Park Seniors Society, whose father had type 1 diabetes, chose Diabetes UK Cymru as the lead charity for his year in office.

His nephew, diagnosed at age 16, also has diabetes type 1 and is currently trialling the latest insulin pump. There are also a few members of the society who either have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, which helped generate awareness around the condition.

The number of people with diabetes in Wales has reached 198,883 and the country has the highest prevalence in the UK at 7.6 per cent.

The society's fundraising events culminated in a big Christmas raffle, totalling £1,500 in donations throughout the year. Joe Cuff, the regional fundraiser for Diabetes UK Cymru said: "We were honoured to be chosen as the charity for Cottrell Park Seniors last year and are very grateful to everyone involved for raising this amount."

Isabel's Ffos Las winner

LLANCARFAN'S Isabel Williams riding Janet Davies' five-year-old Timassini landed the Milford Waterfront Novices' Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las last Friday.

Timassini, one of four runners her father Evan had in the race, won by three-and-three-quarter lengths from Another Tuco partnered by champion jockey Richard Johnson and was returned at odds of 8-1. Isabel said:

"Timassini has been knocking on the door and I think the fast pace helped her today."

Evan, top trainer at Ffos Las Racecourse also won the previous race, the Mare's Novices' Handicap Chase with his seven-year-old Miss Zip who, ridden by stable jockey Adam Wedge, scored by half-a-length from Massini's Dream trained by Christian Williams (no relation) at Omgrove-By-Sea and ridden by Jack Tudor. Miss Zip went off the 3-1 favourite.

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15 65 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe [Professional Media] M Sport plus pack, 19" alloys, white

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13 63 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 3dr, aircon, USB, white

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16 65 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI 120 Titanium 5dr, reverse camera, DAB, grey

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16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19" alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather

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17 17 HYUNDAI i10 1.2 Premium 5dr, Hyundai warranty March 2022, cruise, Bluetooth, PDC, 7k, white

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17 67 BMW 520d M Sport Estate Auto (facelift) sat nav, 18" alloys, 33k, white, full leather

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16 66 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium Sport 5dr X-Pack (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, 33k, black, full leather

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17 17 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Ultra Sport 4dr S Tronic, auto, sat nav, 17" alloys, cruise, black

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18 18 BMW X3 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Auto Facelift, pro nav, 19" alloys, sunstone metallic, full leather

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18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line X 5dr, rear view camera, sat nav, 10k, grey, half leather

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14 64 BMW 320d XDrive M Sport Estate Auto M Sport Plus Pack 19" alloys, Harmon Kardon, 51k, black, full leather

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17 66 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-Jet 145 3dr, air-con, dab, sat nav, 27k, yellow£9495

13 63 ALFA ROMEO MITO 0.9 TB TwinAir 105 Distinctive 3dr, sat nav, 22k, grey, full red leather£5495

18 18 AUDI A3 1.4 TFSI e-tron 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, choice, half leather/alcantara£16995

18 67 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI 116 S Line 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, DAB, Bluetooth, 27k, blue, half leather£17995

16 66 AUDI A4 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Estate S-Tronic, pan roof, 19" alloys, sat nav, black, full leather£19995

17 66 BMW 118d M Sport (nav) 5dr step auto, 18" alloys, DAB, blue£14295

16 66 BMW 225e Luxury 5dr [Nav] Auto, pan roof, sat nav, 35k, grey, full leather£15995

16 66 BMW 318d SE 4dr, sat nav, 18" m sport alloys, privacy glass, white£10995

16 66 BMW 320d Efficient Dynamics Sport Estate Step Auto, sat nav, DAB, grey, full leather£13995

16 66 BMW 320d M Sport Estate Automatic, heated seats, grey, full leather£15795

17 67 BMW 320d M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather£15995

16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, M Sport + pack, 19" alloys, sat nav, choice, full leather£15995

15 65 BMW 335d XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather£16795

17 66 BMW 320d [190] M Sport GT 5dr Step Auto, pan roof, sat nav, advanced parking, 19" alloys, Harman kardon, huge spec, met grey, full leather£17995

16 66 BMW 330d Luxury Estate Step Auto, sat nav, innovation pack, 19" alloys, black, full oyster leather£16995

16 66 BMW 420d XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe Automatic, m sport plus pack, 19" alloys, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, blue, full leather£18995

17 67 BMW 420d M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr (190bhp), BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 20k, black, full leather£16995

17 67 BMW 420d (190) m sport 5dr gran coupe automatic, bmw warranty oct 2020, 19" alloys, pro media, m sport + pack, Harman kardon, choice, full leather£18995

16 66 BMW 430d M Sport 2dr Convertible Automatic (258bhp), m sport plus pack, sat nav, 37k, grey, full leather£21495

16 66 BMW 520d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather£14495

16 66 BMW 520d M Sport Estate Automatic, pan roof, 190bhp, sat nav, grey, full leather£15495

17 67 BMW 520d XDrive SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather£18495

16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19" alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather£21995

17 17 BMW 640d M Sport 2dr Auto, 20" alloys, sunroof, 38k, black, full ivory leather£22995

16 66 BMW X1 2.0 SDrive D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather£13495

16 66 BMW X2 sDrive 20i M Sport 5dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2022, 19" alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 5k, black£23995

16 66 BMW X3 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Auto, pro media, 20" alloys, 44k, black, full leather£20995

16 65 BMW X4 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Auto, sunroof, pro media, 20" alloys, 46k, black, full leather£20995

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20" alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather£25995

16 66 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20" alloys, sat nav, m sport plus pack, 30k, grey, full leather£28995

18 18 DACIA SANDERO STEPWAY 0.9 TCE Ambiance 5dr, Dacia warranty June 2021, Bluetooth, aircon, 10k, white£7995

15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Vintage '57 3 dr, Bluetooth, alloys, blue, full leather£6495

17 67 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, alloys, usb, dab, choice£6295

18 68 FIAT 500C 1.2 Collezione 2dr Convertible, Fiat warranty Oct 2021, Bluetooth, 14k, Bossa Nova white/lunar grey£11495

17 67 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-TorQ Pop Star 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, black£9995

17 67 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr 4WD, Ford warranty Dec 2020, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 16k, silver with full leather£19995

18 68 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, white£10495

18 18 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCI 120 Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty June 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, white£10295

10 10 FORD FIESTA 1.6 Titanium 5dr, alloys, aircon, USB, red£4295

13 63 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 115 Zetec S 5dr, 18" Alloys, Bluetooth, 45k, white£7495

17 67 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI 120 Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, red£9995

19 19 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBlue 120 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty April 2022, 17" alloys, cruise, privacy glass, 9k, chrome blue£15495

19 68 FORD FOCUS 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 7k, black£16995

15 15 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 50k, silver£9495

17 17 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr 2WD, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 37k, red£12995

17 66 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Titanium S 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, 21k, yellow, half-leather£9495

17 67 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr Powershift (7-Seater) Ford warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, 23k, silver£17995

16 66 HYUNDAI i40 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 4dr, Hyundai warranty Nov 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, met grey, full leather£11495

19 69 HYUNDAI KONA 1.6 150kw GDI Hybrid Premium SE 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 464 miles in orange£22795

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDi Blue Drive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19" alloys, pan roof, 38k, white, full leather£18995

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16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 5dr 2WD automatic, Pan, roof, sat nav, Bluetooth, met red, full leather£14495

17 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0d [180] Portfolio 4dr Auto, sunroof, 19" alloys, sat nav, 11k, Firenze red, full leather£19495

16 66 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0d R-Sport 5dr, 22" alloys, pan roof, sat nav, 19k, grey, full two tone leather£24995

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0d V6 S 5dr Auto AWD (300bhp), Jaguar warranty Dec 2020, 20" alloys, sat nav, 28k, white, full two tone leather£30995

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16 66 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Limited Plus 5dr Auto [Start Stop] 20" alloys, sat nav, 23k, grey, full leather£21995

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18 68 KIA CEED 1.4 T GDI ISG Blue Edition 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2025, sat nav, reverse camera, 6k, blue£14995

18 68 KIA NIRO 1.6 GDI Hybrid 4 5dr DCT Automatic, KIA Warranty until November 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 13k, grey, full leather£21495

18 68 KIA PICANTO 1.25 X-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2025, rev cam, 10k, black, full leather£9795

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16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather£14495

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15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 180 HSE Black 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20" alloys, sat nav, 28k, black, full leather.....**£23995**

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18 18 RANGEROVER VELAR 2.0 D240 R-Dynamic S 5dr Auto, Landrover warranty June 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20" alloys, 16k, black, full leather.....**£37995**

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17" alloys, cruise, grey, full leather.....**£16995**

12 12 MAZDA 3 1.6 Sport 5dr, heated seats, privacy glass, grey.....**£4495**

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather.....**£14795**

18 18 MERCEDES A180d AMG Line Executive 5dr Auto, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, heated seats, silver, half leather/alcantara.....**£17995**

18 18 MERCEDES A180 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, cruise, dab, 9k, choice.....**£18495**

14 64 MERCEDES A180 CDI Sport 5dr, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, 48k, red, half leather.....**£10495**

18 67 MERCEDES A200 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty March 2021, sat nav, usb, reverse camera, 16k, silver.....**£15995**

18 18 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty May 2021, pan roof, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, choice, full leather.....**£18995**

18 68 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, usb, 8k, choice, half-leather.....**£22995**

18 68 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium Plus 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, silver, full leather.....**£22995**

19 19 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, xenons, 6k, white, half leather/suede.....**£27495**

17 17 MERCEDES C220d AMG Line 4dr 9G Tronic, sat nav, 18 Alloys, 13k, silver, full leather.....**£19495**

17 17 MERCEDES C220D AMG LINE 2DR Auto, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 28k, white, full leather.....**£20995**

17 17 MERCEDES C220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe Automatic, pan roof, 19" alloys, sat nav, electric heated seats, 28k, white with full leather.....**£22995**

17 66 MERCEDES C250d Sport Premium Plus Estate Auto, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, blue, full leather.....**£18995**

19 19 MERCEDES C300 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 1k, choice with half-leather.....**£28995**

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, widescreen sat nav, ambient lighting, heated seats, xenons, 20k, choice.....**£19795**

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20" alloys, 7k, choice, half-leather.....**£28995**

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D SE 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 20k, met grey, full leather.....**£19995**

16 66 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic Sport Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, met grey, full leather.....**£21495**

18 18 MERCEDES GLS350 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic 7-Seater, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, night pack, Harman kardon, sat nav, pan roof, 13k, white, full leather.....**£42995**

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17 67 MINI 1.5 Cooper 2dr Convertible, Chilli Pack, 17" alloys, reverse camera, 27k, Caribbean blue, half leather.....**£11495**

17 67 MITSUBISHI ASX 1.6 3 5dr, Mitsubishi warranty Dec 2020, reverse camera, heated seats, 11k, white.....**£11995**

19 19 NISSAN MICRA 1.0 IG 71 Acenta Ltd Edition 5dr, Nissan warranty April 2022, Bluetooth, cruise, 8k, met grey.....**£9795**

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 dCi N-Connecta 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, white.....**£8995**

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 14k, blue.....**£12495**

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Vision 5dr, Nissan warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, 8k, blue, half-leather.....**£13795**

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 dCi N-Vision 5dr, panoramic roof, sat nav, 19" alloys, met green.....**£12495**

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17 67 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr Xtronic Automatic (7-Seater), Nissan warranty Oct 2020, pan roof, cruise, 9k, blue.....**£14995**

17 67 PEUGEOT 308 SW 1.6 BlueHDi 120 Allure Estate, Peugeot warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, pan roof, 38k, grey.....**£9795**

18 68 PEUGEOT 3008 1.5 BlueHDi Allure 5dr, Peugeot warranty Dec 2021, apple car play, sat nav, grey.....**£16995**

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18 68 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 75 Play 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2022, cruise, alloys, 8k, white.....**£8795**

15 65 RENAULT TWINGO 0.9 TCE Dynamique S 5dr, sat nav, rev camera, white.....**£5495**

17 66 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, pdc, privacy glass, 19k, black.....**£9495**

17 67 RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCE Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 15k, white.....**£11795**

16 66 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Dynamique Nav 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 14k, gold.....**£10495**

15 65 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI GT Line Nav 5dr, sat nav, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, 42k, met red, half-leather.....**£7995**

14 63 SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDI CR 105 Monte Carlo 5dr, 17" alloys, privacy glass, silver.....**£5995**

17 67 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI CR 190 Sport Line 5dr DSG, Skoda warranty Jan 2021, apple car play, 19" alloys, 7k, white, half leather/alcantara.....**£18995**

17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE Dynamic Technology 5dr DSG Automatic, Seat warranty until December 2020, sat nav, cruise, 8k, grey.....**£11295**

17 67 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI CR Xcellence [150] 5dr DSG (7-Seater) Seat warranty Jan 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 16k, grey, full leather.....**£20995**

17 17 TOYOTA CH-R 1.8 Hybrid Dynamic S 5dr CVT, sat nav, reverse camera, blue.....**£18795**

18 18 TOYOTA PRIUS+ 1.8 VVTi Icon TSS 5dr CVT Auto (7-seater) Toyota warranty Aug 2023, reverse camera, Bluetooth, white.....**£20995**

17 67 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T Active 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Jan 2021, 17" alloys, cruise, 18k, white.....**£11495**

15 65 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX SE 5dr, heated seats, privacy glass, 33k, blue, full leather.....**£8495**

17 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI Blue Motion Tech GTI 5dr Automatic (220bhp), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 10k, red.....**£17995**

15 15 VW GOLF 1.6 TDI 105 Match 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, black.....**£7495**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT Edition 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, grey.....**£13995**

17 67 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI 184 GTD 5dr DSG auto, sat nav, xenons, heated seats, 26k, GREY.....**£18995**

17 67 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI 184 GTD 5dr, sat nav, apple car play, 39k, grey.....**£17995**

17 17 VW GOLF 207 Digit Edition, 3dr, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, white.....**£13795**

17 67 VW PASSAT 1.4 TSI GTE Estate DSG Automatic (215bhp), sat nav, heated seats, 18" alloys, black, half-leather.....**£17995**

17 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI SE 5dr DSG Automatic, VW warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, cruise, dab, 17k, grey.....**£18795**

18 18 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 152 Momentum Nav Plus 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 19k, grey.....**£13995**

17 67 VOLVO S60 2.0 T4 [190] Business Edition Lux 4dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 17k, blue.....**£12995**

14 64 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Geartronic, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 45k, black, half-leather.....**£14495**

16 16 VOLVO XC60 D4 [190] SE Lux Nav 5dr Geartronic, sat nav, cruise, 31k, white, full leather.....**£17995**

18 68 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Automatic AWD, Volvo warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19" alloys, 13k, met red, half-leather.....**£26995**



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16 66 MERCEDES GLE 350d 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic, 21" black alloys, sat nav, 21k, silver, full leather.....**£32995 NO BUYERS FEES**



16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GT 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 18" black alloys, dab, grey, half-leather.....**£13495 NO BUYERS FEES**



17 17 VW Golf 2.0 TDI GT Edition 3dr, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, white, half leather.....**£13795 NO BUYERS FEES**



MINI WARRANTY JULY 2021
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MERCEDES WARRANTY JULY 2021
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VW WARRANTY NOV 2022
£21495 NO BUYERS FEES



VW WARRANTY MARCH 2021
£20495 NO BUYERS FEES



17 17 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.0 PHEV 4dr Auto, sunroof, sat nav, 21k, grey, full leather.....**£20995 NO BUYERS FEES**



16 66 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Tech Line 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 39k, white.....**£8995 NO BUYERS FEES**



16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.2 DiG-T N-Connecta 5dr, exterior pack, sat nav, pan roof, 30k, blue.....**£9795 NO BUYERS FEES**



16 66 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI SIGNATURE NAV 5dr, sat nav, white, full black leather.....**£8795 NO BUYERS FEES**

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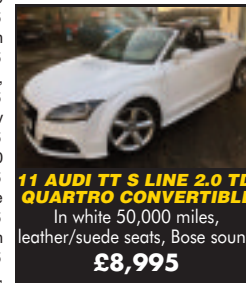
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Ruthless England deny Justin a shot at sports quiz immortality

By Philip Irwin

Reporter
philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

AS Welsh fans reflect about how depressed they should get after three defeats in a row, spare a thought for Justin Tipuric.

It's tough luck for a flanker to score two tries and finish on the losing side, but he was also close to sports quiz immortality.

The 'who handled the ball in the Baa-Baas v All Blacks 1971 game for THAT try' is a staple question, and Tipuric's first – which seemed at the time to be a huge psychological coup for Wales – could have become a similar moment.

It's true that the Baa-Baas try featured seven players, while the Welsh try had only four (five really, as Nick Tompkins handled twice) but it had all the iconic elements in it. England were so out-manoeuvred when they restarted the second half that they barely touched a Welsh player, apart from a despairing attempt to catch Tipuric, and it also gave the Ospreys flanker a chance to show just how quick he is. He may be in his 30s now, but he shows no sign of slowing down.

Unfortunately, to have quiz-masters asking a similar question in 40 years time, it needed to be the key moment in a thrilling Welsh comeback.

It won't be so fondly remembered now, because England ruthlessly shut the door and took the game away from Wales – just as they had during the first half.

The final score – England 33, Wales 30, was not a true reflection of the game. Wales couldn't complain that, as in the Ireland game, they saw little of the ball.

They had plenty of possession, but England's Shaun Edwards-style rush defence had Dan Biggar and his three-quarters struggling all afternoon – apart from the last five minutes when England were down to 13 players.

In contrast, England gave an object lesson in finishing cleanly and clinically, and it was no coincidence that George Ford gave the scoring pass for two of England's three tries.

Eddie Jones has left him on the bench on a number of occasions – usually when he anticipates that the opposition will send their biggest ball carriers down his channel.

With Wales committed to moving the ball wider under Wayne Pivac, Jones was happy to put his faith in Ford – and that faith was amply rewarded, as the supposedly lightweight outside half was at his very best.

He looked so much slicker than Dan Biggar, who does some things supremely well, but can't do what Ford can do. Was Biggar fully fit? Perhaps in the days to come we will find out the significance of that strapping, and why he handed over some of the goal kicking duties to Leigh Halfpenny.

It was a game that did not start well for Wales. After several minutes of tactical kicking Wales stole the ball at an English line out and attacked, but a fumbled pass meant that Maro Itoje was able to seize the loose ball and go on a 30-metre charge.

From a line out in the Welsh 22, No 8 Tom Curry fed Ben Youngs and he stopped and fired a pass to the blindsides that right wing Anthony Watson took at speed. Watson's trademark is quick footwork, and he used it to beat Tomos Williams and stretched out to touch the ball down with Liam Williams clinging to his leg. Farrell's conversion made it 7-0.

Wales made a promising riposte when, after Elliot Daly knocked on, they ran the ball in the English 22. Nick Tompkins beat his man and the ball was slipped to George North and, for a moment, it looked as if the Welsh forwards were driving him over the line.

However, referee Ben O'Keefe spotted a knock on, although a

prolonged bust up involving six or seven players from each side meant we had to wait to find this out.

As a result of the communal grappling, he awarded Wales a penalty and Leigh Halfpenny kicked it. It was about this time that England wing Jonny May went off for an HIA and five minutes later it was announced that he would not be returning.

As Eddie Jones had packed his bench with forwards (a 6-2 split) Welsh fans must have wondered if Eddie had been too clever for his own good.

England had much of the possession over the next 10 minutes, and Manu Tuilagi was launched at Hadleigh Parkes twice. The Welsh No 12 did well to stop him, but Wales were penalised at a ruck and Farrell extended the lead to 10-3.

Looking at my notes after the game, there were two phrases that cropped up quite often. One was 'exchange of kicks' and over the course of the game, England came out on top in that area, possibly because Henry Slade had replaced Jonny May, and he and Daly kicked long and into space very well.

The other phrase was 'penalty for high tackle' and Manu Tuilagi was the victim on quite a number. He was to make his own brand of reckless challenge, of course, later in the game.

However, the next score came after a high tackle on Josh Navidi, who showed no signs of rustiness on his return to the Welsh team. Again, it was Halfpenny who kicked it to make it 10-6.

Wales had chances over the next 10 minutes but passes went astray, perhaps due to the English line speed. Navidi had a chance to set up Parkes for one of his trademark close-to-the-line angled runs, but the pass was a bit fierce, and soon after a Welsh backs move stuttered along the line until Tompkins was isolated and England regained possession.

There was a bit more of the 'exchange of kicks' hiatus, although Owen Farrell almost put Elliot Daly clear with a pin-point cross-kick. Then, Itoje took the ball at a line out, England set up as if for a driving maul, but Ben Youngs broke instead.

There was danger for Wales and Ken Owens was penalised for a high tackle, and England used the penalty advantage to go wide, with Ford putting Daly in at the corner. It was, in theory, two against two, so George North and Leigh Halfpenny will be conducting an inept inquest into what went wrong.

Farrell did not miss a kick all day, so it was 17-6, and it became 20-6 after a high tackle by Parkes on Farrell gave the England No 12 another penalty.

The clock was moving into the red, but England sensed that Wales were in trouble, in particular at the scrum, and went for another score.

It was the right tactic, but the wrong result (from an English point of view) because a messy England backs move ended in Welsh possession, and another high tackle penalty gave Wales a penalty 40 metres out. This time Biggar took it, and Wales went in 20-9 down.

Was that a psychological slip up by England? Might it sow some seeds of doubt?

It looked that way when England kicked off to start the second half. Tompkins caught the ball under no pressure, fed Navidi and then took the return pass and made good ground, finding Tomos Williams in perfect position to take the ball another 25 metres, before giving the scoring pass to Tipuric. It didn't look like a scoring pass at the time, as the English cover seemed to be closing on the Welsh flanker, but he had the speed to touch down under the posts.

Biggar converted. A wonderful try and surely the type of psychological blow that would trigger those old English frailties?

Not this time.

Farrell kicked a penalty to make it 23-16, and that steadied the ship.

Tomos Williams' reward for his part in the try was to be replaced by Rhys Webb, and over the next 10 minutes both sides sent on a flood of

substitutes. In the case of Jake Ball, it was due to an injury, and Aaron Shingler came on to play in the second row.

The game went rather shapeless as all the subs arrived, and the phrase 'exchange of kicks' cropped up again.

An English attack in the Welsh half foundered when the ball was knocked on, but a Welsh put in at the scrum was a poisoned chalice. Wales disintegrated under the pressure of England's revamped pack, and it was another penalty, kicked again by Farrell to make it 26-16.

The game was slipping away and, after a few more 'exchanges of kicks' Wales were back defending. Slade made ground, and Ben Youngs (heading for the man of the match award) made another break. Anthony Watson declined the option of passing to the charging Tuilagi, and it looked as if England had missed their chance to make the game safe.

However, England retained possession and several phases later, big Manu was over, put clear by a slick pass from George Ford and that try took the game out of Wales' reach. Farrell's inevitable conversion made it 33-16, and England were three scores clear.

There were still 15 minutes to go and a humiliating scoreline loomed, but a mixture of English feet off the gas and Welsh pride meant that Wales did most of the attacking from this point on.

It did the possession stats the world of good, but it wasn't great from the Welsh point of view. Too many attacks were dealt with comfortably by England.

There was a good break from Rhys Webb, carried on by Tompkins, Shingler and Ken Owens, and that ended with Wales having a line out five metres out.

From that, Wales launched a series of drives, and soon picked up a penalty advantage. Perhaps the moment to release the backs was never quite there, but you had the feeling that the forwards had lost a bit of faith in them and so we saw a lot of pile ups close to the England line.

There was the inevitable warning by referee O'Keefe to England captain Farrell, followed by the equally inevitable yellow card for Ellis Genge for entering a ruck from the side.

This prompted more pick and goes from the Welsh forwards but, with six minutes left on the clock, they moved it wide. It was promising, but no score, as George North was brought to ground five metres short of the line, with Daly hanging onto his legs.

In came Tuilagi at full tilt, and his shoulder came perilously close to North's much impacted head. Opinions on how dangerous a challenge it was ranged from Eddie Jones' 'nothing wrong with it' to Clive Woodward's 'it was reckless and therefore a red card'.

Referee O'Keefe opted for red and so Wales had five minutes to play against 13 men.

George North was sympathetic and gave Tuilagi a hug, which was generous, considering North's history with concussion.

The backs looked a little less stuttering against 13, although Dan Biggar would have taken some stick for going on his own if the referee had taken a different view of the grounding.

Biggar converted his try to make it 33-23, and Wales followed that with a really fluent move from the restart, almost the length of the field, going through several phases, and finishing with a very neat back-of-the-hand pass from Rhys Webb to the excellent Tipuric. Biggar's conversion made it 33-30.

Man of the match rarely goes to a player on the losing side, but there was a case to be made for Tipuric. There was also a case to be made for George Ford, but Ben Youngs did come back strong after a couple of recent shaky performances, so on balance it was a deserved accolade.

For Wales, this result has piled pressure on Wayne Pivac, and it has made the game against Scotland next week quite a big deal. This transition year was always likely to be tricky, but he seems to have a team who believe in his method.

How long will the fans keep the faith? Time will tell.

Barry and District Ladies Skittles League latest

THE latest results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittles League for March 2 are as follows:

Division 1:

Space Finders 283 (E Worthy 31) v Cigar Ladies 320 (K Billings 35); Sea View Gals 292 (S Bennett 28) v Allsorts 249 (S Greenwell 30); Coppers 303 (S Curtis 35) v Special Angels 265 (P Grinsdale 31); Cadoxton Conservative Fillies 236 (T Dyball 27) v La Belles 230 (S Bowles 25).

Division 2:

Clickies 205 (K Watts 22) v Breakaways 224 (C Skinner 25); Witchill Weebies 319 (H Aspnell, J Jenkins 32) v Persuaders 307 (M Whitehurst 32); Etcetera 232 (K Baker 25) v Colcot Ladies 200 (K Taylor 22); Family Affair 284 (S Vincent 30) v Rugby Triers 224 (June, Mandie 20) Bobby's Girls 221 (J Barnett 23) v Red Admiral 260 (G Williams 32).

Division 3:

Airways Angels 238 (M Carpenter 25) v Hillbillies 245 (D Stewart 25); Off the Rails 224 (I Rosser 27) v Livin-on-a-Spare 241 (E McLaggan, A Finn 24); Vixens 251 (M Marks 29) v Little Devils 229 (D Harhry 26); Boozy Birds 333 (E Phillips 33) v Dolly Mixtures (G Bird gets, C Abbott 30).

Division 4:

Nite Outers 227 (M Hudson 25) v Socialites 164 (A Hicks 23); Twilights 196 (A Campbell 24) v Merry Makers 213 (H Davies 30); Down Town Gals 211 (L Wyatt 27) v Witchill Wanderers 213 (S Reynolds 28); Drifters 250 (S Lovering 29) v Westend Rollers 209 (S Carpenter 25).

Results of the Pairs Competition: Winners: Drifters (E Simmons and J Wood); second- Sea View Gals (C Gaffney and N Jones). Semi finalists: Allsort (R Dawe, S Hartford and C Jewell), Optimists (S Palmer and Jenny). Highest Roll: Red Admiral (S Hayes, H Selby) and La Belles (N and E Cordy). **AB**

Quarks and Gambits battle for League position

THE Barry Quarks and Barry Gambits teams were both in action on Monday in division 3 of the East Glamorgan Chess league.

Both teams could help one another as the Gambits were away at Caerphilly Rooks – a team with an outside chance of promotion, and the Quarks were away at the North Cardiff Ravens – a team near the bottom of the table.

The Quarks did well with Ken Hannah, Chris Green and team captain Martin Ricketts. Martin commented how difficult it turned out to earn his win against young Khushi Bagga.

On top board, Gwyn Havard was in substantial difficulty but managed to find the right moves to earn a draw.

John Ryles also took draw meaning the match finished with a 4-1 victory for the Quarks to record their sixth consecutive victory.

The Gambits didn't fare so well. Mark Cooke on top board took a good victory. There were draws for Tom Cooke, Ian Abraham and Sam White so the spoils were shared in a 2.5-2.5 draw.

The league table shows the Quarks strengthened their promotion prospects as none of their four rivals could pick up more than three points. They sit in second place now, 5.5 points behind league leaders Pentrych Amateurs but 4.5 points above Rhondda A in third place with only five matches to play.

The Gambits remain in sixth place but with a margin of seven points above the bottom three. Their safety seems almost assured.

Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm most at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards. New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night, but it is better to make contact through the website first so that we can arrange for someone to greet you.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.



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Bridgend Athletic minis and juniors latest rugby round up



THE Athletic U7, U8, U10,U12 and U14 were in action and all age groups performed very well.

Meanwhile the u16 Ospreys Cup semi-final this Sunday, March 15 will now be held on the Ysgol Cwm Brombil 4G pitch in Margam.

U7: Bridgend Athletic u7s entertained both Pontypridd and Beddau at Newbridge fields. The Ath fielded three teams, so all the players enjoyed lots of game time and put into practice the hard work that they continue to put in training. In the spirit of tag no scores were kept. This squad of players have only been playing for several months, but are really starting to show an understanding of the importance of getting the ball to space with some excellent passages of passing on display.

Player of the Week was Alfie Davies, who showed great determination and a willingness to listen and learn.

U8: Bridgend Athletic U8s welcomed Pontypridd and Beddau to Newbridge Fields. The Ath with their ever-growing squad fielded three teams. Great ball skills displayed, along with a resolute defence

by all the following: Isaac Rees, Osian Phillips, Charlie Tune, Xavier Gardener, Riley Thomas, Callum Brown, George Cowan, Billy Creed, Ollie Davies, Sam Francis, Matthew Hallez, Ben Westlake, Evan Lewis, Ollie Dowson, Matthew Wilcox, Lucas Morgan, Joshua Owen, Jacob Martin and Harrison O'Brien.

U10: Bridgend Athletic U10s managed to play four games this week: first up was the visit of Pencoed on Tuesday on the 4G at Parc Derwen. It was a great game, both clubs displaying quality rugby. The Ath fielded 22 players on the night and, despite having to make so many subs, were triumphant: outscoring Pencoed 11 tries to 7, scorers were Dylan Jones 4, Dylan Hopkins 2, Ethan Davies 2, Rudi Quinn, Rhys Gardiner and Jude Lewis.

The Ath then sent a squad to Llanharan and a squad to Maesteg Celtic for a round robin with Tonna. Not for the first time this season the u10s showed maturity beyond their years and grounded out a two try to one victory, try scorers were Rudi Quinn and Dylan Jones.

Next up was Tonna and the Ath were too strong and always in control of the

game, outscoring them 10 tries to one. Great effort shown by Tonna refusing to give up and battling right to the end. Try scorers vs Tonna were Rory Whyte 3, Dylan Hopkins 2, Dylan Jones 2, Charlie Howells, Osian Kenny, Grayson Lewis Whelan & Mason Brown.

Finally, the Ath were again also too strong for Llanharan showing great execution in attack & outscoring them 14 tries to 3. Again, great effort shown by Llanharan for battling to the very end. Try scorer's vs Llanharan were Billy Evans 4, Rhys Gardiner 4, Efan Duncan 2, Max Edwards 2, Reuben O'Brien and Zack Hughes.

Final Scores: Bridgend Athletic 55 v 35 Pencoed. Maesteg Celtic 5 v 10 Bridgend Athletic Tonna 5 v 55 Bridgend Athletic. Llanharan 15 v 70 Bridgend Athletic

U12: The u12s welcomed Maesteg Celtic: unfortunately, the Celtic were short of numbers, so three Ath players were lent to the Celtic. The Ath got off to a flying start with an intercepted try to settle any nerves. The rest of the half was dominated by the Ath boys on both

sides with the boys having an opportunity to have a go at each other. In the spirit of the game three different boys from the Ath were given a chance to play for the opposition in the second half. This certainly made the game into a contest, but regardless of this the Ath still proved too much for the Celtic, the Ath winning 49 points to 7.

It was very pleasing to see how the Ath boys embraced today's game and clearly understand that sometimes being able to play a game and help the opposition is what the spirit of club rugby is all about.

U14: The U14's travelled to play Nantyffyllon after four weeks without a game. The Ath were also short of players due to injuries. On a pitch which was heavy underfoot the game started with Nanty forwards carrying hard into the Ath half. However, it was the Ath who got the first score of the game, after good work in the loose which led to the first of numerous breakdown penalties. From the resulting line out the ball was tipped down to Harvey Toozie who saw a gap in the defence and ran unopposed under the posts, Iolo John kicking the conversion.

Nanty came back into the game through their forwards and with some hard yards created through driving line outs and carries they got on the score sheet in the corner, with the conversion missed. Before the end of the half the Ath put Nanty under some sustained pressure on their line, but after a couple of quick penalties the Ath opted for the kick in front of the post, penalty taken by Iolo John. At half time it was Nanty 5, The Ath 10.

The second half was scoreless, with some great Ath defence holding out Nanty. It was great to see so many players, including new starters, stand up to the challenge and hold on for a great win. Final score Nanty 5, The Ath 10.

U16: U16 Ospreys Cup semi-final now to be held at Ysgol Cwm Brombil 4G pitch in Margam. It's a 12 KO, so any support for the boys would be massively appreciated.

Lee Murphy is the latest Bridgend Athletic centurion

IN the semi-final of the District Cup played at Maesteg RFC on March 5, hooker Lee Murphy became the latest Ath player to make 100 Ath Senior Appearances.

To date 84 of his senior appearances have been for the 1st XV; six of those tries this season where playing in all 17 League and Cup fixtures to date he is leading try scorer.

He is bringing last season's form, when he was voted joint Player of Year along with Ben Howe, into this season and is certainly in the mix for this season's Player of the Year.

Lee plays a very physical game and is recognised as a major ball carrier in attack and strong in defence. He is now tuning his aggression with experience and putting his 'mad dog' days and serial collector of red and yellow cards behind him.

Lee joined the Athletic Minis aged six and played right through the age groups. His u15 junior side won the Ospreys Cup.

He also played for the BCOW U16's. He featured as primarily as a hooker but spent a season and half as a blind side flanker – a position he has also helped



out on occasions in youth and senior rugby.

He also represented the Ospreys at u18 and u20 level, as well as Crawshaw's u19s and the Welsh Academics. As well as Maesteg Lee spent a season in Australia playing for the Warringah Rugby Club in Sydney.

It is hoped Lee, one of the first players on the team sheet, has many more Athletic seasons in him and can help see the Athletic back in the Championship.

Bridgend and Porthcawl Bridge Clubs show their mettle

DEBBIE and Simon Richards from Bridgend Bridge Club, with team mates David Jones and Jan Duncan from Bristol, won the Swiss teams competition in the Barnstaple Bridge Congress played recently.

In other competitions: The Max Powell Rose Bowl Pairs: First, Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage; second, Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner; third, Irene Thomas and Marjorie Morris.

On March 4: First, Tony Disley and Steve Burgoyne; second, Norma and David Newman; third, Linda Pincock and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were Norma and David Newman.

On March 5: First, Gareth Jenkins and Mike Williams; second, Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett; third, V Irene Thomas and Dilys Bowser. The winners on handicap were Gareth Jenkins and Mike Williams.

Porthcawl Bridge Club

THE club recently held a heat of the Celtic Simultaneous Pairs, in which clubs play the same hands, to be collated and scored nationally.

Keith and Tony, despite not winning the local heat, were ranked first in the overall national result. In other results: February 22: First, John Beard and Tony Haworth; Norma and David Newman.

February 27 Celtic Simultaneous Pairs: First, Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; second, Julian Pottage and Tony Ratcliff. Overall national winners Keith Davison and Tony Haworth.

February 29: First, Pat Roper and John Cobby; second, Emer Disley and Debbie Lea.

March 5: First, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second, Gary Williams and Pat Haworth.

The club meets twice a week at the Awel-y-Mor centre, Thursdays from 6.45pm – 9.45pm; Saturdays from 3.15pm – 6.15pm; visitors welcome at any time. Call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

GJ

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